

The Spire

JUNE 2010

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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

Janet Nunn is our editor. If you have any ideas or news, or would like to write an article for the magazine, please contact her:

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NEXT ISSUE/COPY DEADLINE

The July issue is published on Sunday 27 June. All copy must be with us by **Thursday 3 June**.

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When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

WELCOME

June 2010



The Church's year runs from the beginning of May until the end of April, apart from the finances which follow a calendar year. At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) a new Parochial Church Council (PCC) and a new churchwarden were elected. You will find a report in the centrespread. Unfortunately the accounts had not yet been audited so another meeting was due to be held on 30 May.

We also feature Canon Julian Reindorp, who retired from his post as team rector in Richmond last year. Julian and his wife Louise have moved to Hampton Hill. He is a very welcome member of the congregation and choir. Julian rides a bright red scooter often seen outside the church.

A big thank you to those of you who have responded to our appeal since the last issue. So far it has raised £721 towards the cost of producing the Spire. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated printer. Justin Hollingsworth always produces high quality work and gives us a magazine to be proud of.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn, editor

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

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Weekly Notices/Pew Sheet

Kirstie Hird 020 8941 6003

UPDATES

Please tell us about any changes

OUR CLERGY



VICAR

Revd Peter VannoZZi

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

Debbie was born in Hull in 1963, ordained in 2006 and is a self-supporting minister.

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BAPTISM AND WEDDING ENQUIRIES

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

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For all enquiries and hall bookings.

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SERVICES FOR JUNE

Sundays

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion

6 June - 1st Sunday after Trinity

1 Kings 17.17-end
Galatians 1.11-end
Luke 7.11-17

13 June - 2nd Sunday after Trinity

2 Samuel 11.26-12.10, 13-13
Galatians 2.15-end
Luke 7.36-8.3

20 June - 3rd Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 65.1-9
Galatians 3.23-end
Luke 8.26-39

27 June - 4th Sunday after Trinity

1 Kings 19.15-16, 19-end
Galatians 5.1, 13-25
Luke 9.51-end

1st Sunday in month

6 June
9.30am All-age Communion

Mondays-Fridays (but not Tuesdays)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

1st Wednesday in month

2 June
7am Commuter Communion

1st Thursday in month

3 June
2pm Holy Communion

THE LEADER COLUMN

SOCIETY OFTEN IGNORES THOSE MOST IN NEED, BUT CAN WE TURN OUR BACKS?

Nameless and blameless?



Due to printing deadlines I am writing this in week two of the election campaign while in the process of absorbing the information bombarding us through our TVs, radios, websites, and newspapers — not to mention the obligatory flyers descending on the doormat as fast as the bronzed beech leaves fly through the air in preparation for new growth.

It's fascinating how each party defines itself, differentiating between political colours, social relevance, and traditional versus new. All the parties have manifestoes they believe best for getting us out of the economic mess; advertising gurus finding new ways to portray their policies; all trying to point us to a 'fresh start'.

The theme of a new future, new growth, new life — accentuated by Easter and new life in the risen Christ — raises our hopes and expectations. However, just as last year's Indian summer didn't materialise, the same can be said for high expectations. The higher the expectation, the more acute the sense of disillusionment when it is not met.

The election of Barack Obama as US President is a prime example. There was no way that Obama could fulfil the nation's expectations. The same is true of whoever is now in Downing Street, particularly if we allow expectations to be sugar coated to disguise the bitter pill beneath.

In my reflections one Biblical passage has stood out: Luke 16; 19-31. A rich man dresses in purple and fine linens and feasts every day. At his gate is Lazarus, a poor and hungry man, who would have been glad of scraps from the rich man's table, pestered by dogs licking the sores which cover his body. Lazarus dies and is carried up by angels to be with Abraham. Then the rich man dies, is buried and ends up in Hades (Hell) being tormented. The rich man looks up and sees Lazarus with Abraham. He calls to Abraham to send Lazarus to him with water to cool his tongue. Abraham refuses the request, reminding him of his selfish disregard of Lazarus when he sat at his gate.

Realising there's no way out, he requests that Lazarus be sent to his father's house to warn his five brothers so that they may not suffer his fate. This request too is denied, stating if they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they listen to someone risen from the dead. Just as our nation's state is not easy to face up to, neither is this



Debbie Oades

Bible passage.

The rich man lived an opulent lifestyle, but while feasting daily, not just on special occasions, sounds wonderful (it is meant to impress) there's a cost — and it shocks. Lazarus in such a state would be as visually and emotionally repulsive then as it sounds to us today. Maybe repulsion led the rich man to ignore Lazarus.

Even in death their situations differ: a respectable burial for the rich man; however the burial of Lazarus is not mentioned. Lazarus is taken up to Abraham, while the rich man awakes in Hades. What shocks most is that when the rich man appeals to Abraham he names Lazarus. This means the rich man knew his name all along.

It's difficult enough to comprehend walking past someone you don't know, but who is clearly suffering. How on a daily basis could you ignore the plight of a poor person you know by name sitting at your door?

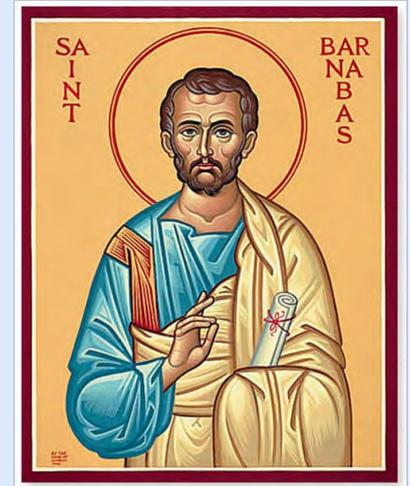
Sadly in reality this happens worldwide every day. How do we live with ourselves turning away from such need? We remain nameless, just like the rich man. If we don't give our name it is easy to fool ourselves and hide from our responsibilities. Something goes wrong and people become clever with words, distancing themselves from the stench of involvement, from the oozing sores of suffering and neglect. The department was to blame, the system failed etc., but behind every department and system failure there are people, not 'human resources' but people with names.

What is particularly sad is that even though the rich man is now in such a terrible plight and able to relate to the sufferings of Lazarus, his first thought is his own need for water. After he is refused he begins to accept his plight. There's a glimmer of hope in reference to his brothers, but that's still of his own. There remains reluctance to look beyond, and he still cannot bring himself to accept his failings. The passage ends leaving me with the questions of how long will it take before he says sorry or indeed if he ever will or, more to the point, will we?

Whichever party is now in power let us not forget our own responsibilities for the society in which we live and pray that names are known, linen is replaced with cotton and sores become a focus for healing.

IN THOUGHT AND PRAYER

11 June — Barnabas the Apostle



We first hear about Barnabas in Acts 4: 36-37. *'There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.'* (NRSV)

Joseph's new given name of Barnabas proved very appropriate to his actions. After Paul (Saul), who had persecuted Christians, was converted to Christianity directly by the Lord he travelled to Jerusalem. Naturally the disciples didn't trust him and wanted nothing to do with him. However Barnabas brought him before the apostles and told them of Paul's meeting with the Lord, and how Paul had spoken in the name of Jesus in Damascus. Barnabas was willing to give Paul a second chance.

On another occasion when Paul and Barnabas set out on a missionary journey they took Mark with them. For some reason Mark did not complete the journey, but returned home. At a later date when Paul and Barnabas were to set out on another journey, Barnabas proposed Mark once more but Paul was against it saying he was not dependable.

Barnabas stood by Mark and took Mark with him, while Paul went on a different journey with Silas. Mark, too, received from Barnabas a second chance from which there was a positive response... the Gospel of Mark!

Barnabas understood that we all get it wrong sometimes, and that we all need a little helping hand of encouragement from time to time. Barnabas saw the potential in both Paul and Mark and supported them. Barnabas reminds us not to give up on people, or be quick to judge, but to value, support and encourage them to become the best they can for our Lord's sake.

Grant, O God, that we may follow the example of your faithful servant Barnabas, who, seeking not his own renown but the well-being of your Church, gave generously of his life and substance for the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

CHURCH WIDENS SYNOD APPEAL; TRAIDCRAFT EXHIBIT

Wanted: synod members with 'big hearts'

A campaign has been launched to encourage 'people with a very big heart' to stand for election to the General Synod of the Church of England.

Containing 378 lay and clergy members, and passing measures that have the same effect as those of Parliament, the General Synod plays an essential role in the life of the Church. A new Synod will be elected for a five-year term in October.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, said a healthy church was one where 'everyone feels they have a voice'. The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, added: 'What we want are people who have a very big heart, who want to come here and bring friendship, bring love, bring vitality, and we want all ages.'

To stand for the House of Laity you need to be 18 or over, an 'actual Communicant' in the Church of England and on the electoral roll of a parish. The closing date for nominations is 3 September.



St. James's will be hosting a beautiful display celebrating Traidcraft's 30th birthday last year. *Transforming Trade, Transforming Lives*, runs from 3-12 July. Do come and see it. Look out for viewing times nearer the time in the weekly pew sheet, online or by telephoning the Parish Office on 020 8941 6003.



Traidcraft's catalogue has some lovely gift ideas. Please remember it when wondering what to buy. Copies are available in church for you to borrow and return. Our buying decisions really can make a positive difference as the display will show.



The bear essentials...

Do you have a teddy bear to spare? St James's is running an adopt-a-bear stall at the Hampton and Hampton Hill Carnival Fair on 12 June but we need your help with prizes. All bears should be 'escorted' to the Parish Office immediately!

ECO TIP

LOFTS The recommended thickness for loft insulation is now at least 250mm (almost 10 inches). How long ago was your loft insulated? If it is insulated to the correct depth you can save up to 25% on your fuel bills and if you are over 70, Richmond Council will insulate it free of charge. Even if you are not eligible for a grant it is worth contacting your energy company because there are Government grants available, as part of a carbon emissions reduction scheme, worth up to 58% of the cost.



Now is the ideal time to make sure you have the correct depth of insulation, as the saving on fuel bills during the winter is quite significant as well as cutting your carbon footprint.

REGISTERS FOR MARCH/APRIL

MARCH

Baptism
7 Luke Alexander Findlay, Hampton Hill

18 Charlie Frederick Maxwell Jones, Hampton Hill

Weddings

10 Adele Veronica Leask and Clive James Butter
16 Natalie Louise Keane and Malcolm Krishna Kadkol

APRIL

Baptisms
11 Rafferty Christopher Kemp Day, Hampton Hill

17 Victoria Jane Eves and Michael Andrew Cowan

Reporting for duty

Dick Wilde looks back on another challenging year

Meeting of Parishioners

The Meeting of Parishioners was held on Sunday, 25 April, starting at 11am. It was chaired by the Vicar and attended by 40 parishioners and our curate.

The only business of this meeting is to elect two churchwardens for the coming year. **Richard Melville** has served for two years, and was re-elected. **Elizabeth Wilmot**, having served for three years, stood down. **Carole Greville-Giddings** was elected unopposed as the second churchwarden.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The APCM followed at 11.05am. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed, and the numbers of the revised Electoral Roll presented. There are now a total of 256 members on our Electoral Roll, 158 living within the parish boundary.

The PCC consists of the Vicar, the curate, the two churchwardens, up to five elected representatives on the Deanery Synod, and up to 12 elected ordinary members.

Our Deanery Synod representatives were elected in April 2008 for a term of three years and are: **Gwynneth Lloyd, Lesley Mortimer, Ann Peterken and Pip Rowett**. Liz Butler chose to stand down, leaving one vacancy in this group.

Ordinary members of the PCC may serve for three years without re-election, after which they must leave for at least one year, permitting a new intake, normally of four members.

Those who had served for three or more years stood down, leaving **Don Barrett, Ros Daly, David Hettling, Margaret Hobbs and Betty Rainbow**; they were joined by newly elected members: **Nicola Brown, Jacky Cammidge and Jane Gibson**, leaving four vacancies.

A list of those volunteering to act as sidespersons was read by the chair and agreed by the meeting. Peter thanked the sidespersons for the very valuable work they do.

Janet Nunn, as secretary of the PCC, reported on the proceedings of the previous year. Six routine meetings were held in which the church worship and its administration were discussed and at which the treasurer gave regular reports. Additionally, there was an Away Day to discuss the progress of our Mission Action Plan.

A detailed report on our fire precaution measures had been prepared for the diocese. We had purchased and installed a new altar table and a vestment press this year.

Sunday School

Janet also reported a number of other parish activities. We were indebted to Lou Coaker and Sarah Peterson for their leadership of the Sunday School. Both were retiring this year. A new team has taken over their work. Each September we review our child protection policy.

The year's accounts had been prepared by the

Last November, **St Mary Magdalene Church, Richmond**, said farewell to **Canon Julian Reindorp**, who rode off on his trademark red scooter and into retirement. Since then he has become a familiar figure at St James's Church.



Julian writes:

Louise and I moved into Alpha Road just before Christmas. Midnight Communion was my first main service at St James's, where I feel happily settled already. Three years ago I danced with Liz Butler at a Richmond Team Ministry social and heard all about the church and Peter, so I am glad we have ended up here.

I have spent the last 18 years as team rector in Richmond. Before that I was in three teams: Poplar, east London; an Anglican-Methodist team in Walderslade, Chatham; and a Baptist, Anglican, Methodist and URC team in Milton Keynes. We were proud to have had the concrete cows in our parish!

With the Alpha Road park across the road (and already enjoyed by our grandchildren), the Roebuck pub barely 80 yards away, Bushey Park in reach, and a High Street where people smile at you, what more could we ask for?

I am really enjoying having the time for my interests — sport, reading, politics, and friendships old and new. And when Peter and Debbie need a break I may preach the odd sermon. We are very glad to be living here in Hampton Hill.



Treasurer and given to our auditor in good time.

Unfortunately he had been unable to complete the audit, so the PCC's examination of the accounts would be deferred until the next full meeting of the new PCC.

Finally Janet confirmed that she would be standing down as Secretary to the PCC after this meeting. She was warmly applauded as she finished her report.

Richard Melville reported for the Properties Committee on the fabric of the church. The work required following the 2007 Quinquennial Report was up to date. The routine professional maintenance of the heating system, portable electrical appliances, fire extinguishers and fire warning system, lightning conductor, organ and clock had been carried out and recorded in the church



Some of the new PCC (from left): Don Barrett, David Hetling, Jacky Cammidge, Jane Gibson, Betty Rainbow and Carole Greville-Giddings.

logbook.

The annual full spring-clean and late autumn leaf-sweep and gutter cleaning had been completed by Committee members aided by other volunteers, including the Scouts.

Several repairs to the fabric had been completed as they were needed, in particular to the bird-proof windows in the spire. The hall floor has been resurfaced and electrical re-wiring is on-going and being closely monitored by the committee.

Roof leaks

The church roof leaks were a cause of concern and a professional inspection of the gulleys over the north and south aisles was planned.

Lesley Mortimer reported on the activities of the Deanery Synod. There had been three meetings during the year. At the first, Bishop Paul spoke about the work of the diocese; at the second there was a speaker on an historical perspective of church work; at the third the Synod considered the problems caused by unemployment.

Women bishops

Lesley emphasised the importance of the Deanery Synod's work and its input to the main Synod of the



Lou Coaker



Sarah Peterson



Janet Nunn

Church of England, particularly concerning the decision on women bishops.

In his report **the Vicar** said that there had been 35 baptisms and 12 weddings. Of the 13 funerals, five were conducted in the church. The Bishop of Kensington had confirmed eight people last November.

We also welcomed Canon Julian Reindorp to our congregation and looked forward to his contribution to our worship.

Ark's success

Amongst other outreach activities the Vicar mentioned the very successful St James's Ark group, led by Revd Debbie Oades. This had become so oversubscribed that the Monday meetings had had to be restricted to 30 families.

He expressed our gratitude to Lou Coaker and Sarah Peterson, retiring Sunday School leaders; to Liz Wilmot, retiring Churchwarden; and to Janet Nunn, retiring PCC Secretary; and tokens of our appreciation for their work were presented.

Uncertain times

In conclusion the Vicar said that in these troubled and uncertain times the Christian faith offered us all a

Whodunnit? There's no mystery about new churchwarden

Carole Greville-Giddings is having to pinch herself to check it isn't a dream. 'Being a churchwarden never crossed my mind until I was approached. I took some persuading. I was sure that the only thing people thought I was good at was sticking and painting at the Ark!'

Carole, 56, has been happily married to Mark for 35 years. They have two sons, Duncan and Howard, both married, and a daughter, Jennifer, who is reading music at Royal Holloway University. They have been worshipping at St. James's for nearly 12 years.

She hopes her strengths will help her in the role. 'I have a sense of humour. I think I am a good listener and I treat everyone equally and try to understand different points of view. I know that Peter, Debbie and Richard will be a good team to work with and I can draw on Richard's experience as well as that of past churchwardens.

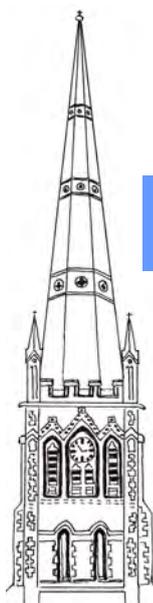
'I've read about my functions and feel they are within my capabilities. The power of arrest sounds interesting, but hopefully that won't be required!' Not that it should be a problem for an avid reader of crime novels. 'I like Alys Clare's



Liz Wilmot, left, and Carole Greville-Giddings

Hawkenlye medieval mysteries, Cadfael — in fact anything medieval. Recently I've read most of Alexander McCall Smith and also enjoy historical novels especially Edward Rutherford.

'Currently, I am a reading a book in German, though only the abridged version, as homework for my German class. I am also keen on knitting, word puzzles and singing — I have been an Anglican chorister for most of my life.'



AROUND THE SPIRE

NEWS FROM HAMPTON HILL AND BEYOND

Alwyne turns 90 with two days of celebrations

Alwyne Loyd celebrated his 90th birthday on Friday 26 March with a memorable lunch at Goldsmith's Hall in London. Alwyne (pictured) was a Freeman of the Goldsmith's Company for 65 years and has now passed the title on to his grandson.

By happy coincidence the day was one of their quarterly lunches, so Alwyne went accompanied by three of his grandsons.

Alwyne has stewarded at Hampton Court Palace's chapel twice a week for many years, specialising in school parties! In February Alwyne went to Thailand to visit one of his six sons and whilst there had a tabard embroidered with the Tudor rose and the portullis and he proudly wore this at his birthday party on Saturday 27 March at the Clore Learning Centre at Hampton Court Palace.

The party was attended by some 80 friends and family and included a power-point presentation of Alwyne's life. Alwyne made a very witty speech with no notes, enjoyed by all.



Congratulations to Duncan and Helen Robinson, who live in Singapore, on the birth of their first child, Oliver James, in March. Grandparents Coryn (left) and Ian Robinson and great-grandparents Hal and Eila Severn have already visited the new arrival.



Thank you to all those who collected or gave money during **Christian Aid Week**. We particularly thank Margaret Taylor for whom this was her 22nd year of organising the collections at St James's. At the time of printing, the money was still being counted. We will bring you the total in the July issue of *The Spire*.



New recruits are shown the ropes

Over the last few months, four of our young people have been learning to ring the bells. Will and

Helena Baglin, William Hird and Joshua Gould (pictured) have been attending Saturday practice sessions very regularly and all are now sufficiently competent to help with Sunday ringing. We are delighted to have them as part of the team and thank them for their commitment and enthusiasm.





All-age Communion

1. We gather

There are four parts to the All-age Communion:

We gather, We listen to God's Word, We share in Holy Communion, We go out to serve God.

- Draw lines from each picture to the correct explanation.
- Can you now put the numbers 1 to 7 against the pictures and explanations to show the order in which they come in the service?



At most All-age services the orchestra, St. James's Players, accompanies all the sung parts of the service and also plays during communion and after the service.



While the first hymn is being sung, the priest and servers move through the church. The flags of the uniformed groups are brought to the front of the church on a Parade Sunday. All this helps to gather us all together – leading us to focus our attention on worshipping God.

The priest tells us that God forgives us.



The priest welcomes everybody.



We think about the wrong things we have done, said and thought. We say sorry and ask God to forgive us.



We sing a song of praise to God: Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth.....



The Collect is read from the Bible. It is a special prayer for a particular Sunday. There is a different Collect for every Sunday of the Christian year.





Revelations

A New Government

Our new government — a coalition for the first time since the 1930s — comes to power at a time when the world and our nation are in great difficulty. History shows how weak, greedy or foolish leadership can cause severe damage to our security, well-being and international stature. At other times courageous, principled and skilled leadership has taken our country safely through times of great danger. We admire individuals for virtues such as courage, integrity and kindness. It would be good to be regarded as a country which has the wisdom to exercise policies based on these qualities. Most importantly charity, in its broadest sense of active goodwill to all men, should be exercised even in times of crisis.

The Templeton Prize

Professor F J Ayala was awarded the prestigious Templeton Prize this year. The prize is awarded to those who have made an exceptional contribution to the affirmation of life's spiritual dimensions. Prof. Ayala was once a Dominican monk and is now a world-famous professor of biological science at the university of California. He has written a book titled: "Darwin's Gift to Religion and Science". He has a distinguished record as a biologist and evolutionary scientist, and has no difficulty in seeing the harmony between evolutionary science and religious belief.

Caring

All political parties are uneasily aware of a problem which is already costing the country dearly for a service which is very patchy, and in places is quite unsatisfactory. This is the care of an ageing population. The main difficulty, though not the only one, is the affordability of decent comprehensive care for every person in need, regardless of their ability to pay for it directly and immediately. A fairly modest proposal, to recover care money from the cared-for person's estate after death, was unfortunately drawn into the pre-election shouting match. It became labelled the 'death tax', an unpleasant name for a sensible modification to inheritance tax. The government was forced to drop the idea. In its dying days, the old government tried again with their new white paper on social care which declared: "Now is the time for bold reform". The bold reform was to "establish a commission to help reach a consensus". It is to be hoped that our new government will do better than this.

And Lunar Power Too

At long last, the engineers who have been pleading for years for sea tides and waves to be harnessed to generate electrical energy seem to have found some real government support. A scheme for testing medium-size prototype generators of this type has been started, using the fierce tides and waves in the Pentland Firth. Waves are wind generated, and the power in a wave-front of 100 metres length can be as much as 500 kW, depending on wave height and frequency. Tidal power is mainly from the moon's pull: lunar power. Using horizontal-axis rotors free-standing in a tidal flow, proven turbines produce up to 30 MW. The total power from all the test machines in this pilot scheme should be about 1.2 GW. This is a serious contribution to our electricity supply, and it could be just a beginning.

Dick Wilde



St James's Theatre Club

Tuesday 8 June, 7.45pm, *Spirit of the Dance*, Richmond Theatre, The Green TW9 1QJ
The smash-hit blend of Irish dancing and Latino rhythms. Our tickets £12 (saving £10)

- There are also discounted tickets available for:
- Tuesday 27 July — *Shakespeare: the man from Stratford* starring Simon Callow, £15 (saving £10)
- Tuesday 10 August — *The Country Girl* starring Martin Shaw and Jenny Seagrove, £18 (saving £10)
- Tuesday 14 September — *Morecambe*, a must for all fans of British comedy, £14 (saving £10)
- Tuesday 12 October — *Crazy For You* the Gershwin musical comedy, £16.50 (saving £2.50)
- Tuesday 2 November — *Spend Spend Spend!* Winner of 2009 TMA Awards for Best Musical, £16 (saving £10)

To join us, please add your name to the lists on the church notice board or telephone Ria Beaumont 020 8943 4336. Transport can be arranged.

Service of Thanksgiving

- Saturday 12 June, 5pm, St James's Church.
- Everyone is welcome at a thanksgiving service for the marriage of Rodney and Janet Taylor's son, Romilly, and Monique Bender. The wedding took place in Cleveland, Ohio, last September.

Hampton and Hampton Hill Carnival

- Saturday 12 June, 12-4pm, Fair takes place at Nursery Green Park, The Avenue, Hampton TW12
- The parade leaves St James's Road at 12 noon, travelling down Hampton Hill High Street into Ormond Drive, Percy Road and The Avenue. The fair opens on Nursery Green 12.30pm. **This year St James's Church has an Adopt-a-Teddy stall at the fair — and we need your bears now!** Please take them to the Parish Office as soon as possible. Each donated teddy is given a name tag which matches the name in a sealed envelope. These are sold for £1 each and the buyer gets the teddy with the matching name.

Teddington Choral Society Concert

- Saturday 26 June, 2pm and 7pm, *Summer Soirée — The Sounds of Music Through the Ages*, St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road, Teddington TW11 9HF.
- With full orchestra, under the baton of Geoffrey Bowyer.
- Homemade cakes and refreshments available for afternoon performance, or bring a picnic to the evening concert. Tickets from Albert's Music Shop, Twickenham, or on the door.

Vicar's View



Relax! I'm not the prison chaplain - I've just been given three months for wearing a crucifix in public!

Concordia Voices at the Teddington and Hampton Music Festival

Wednesday 7 July, St Mary's Church, Hampton
See the July *Spire* or pew sheets for more information.

Cantanti Camerati Summer Concert

Saturday 10 July, 7.30pm, St George's Suite, RFU Stadium, Twickenham.
Musical Director Geoffrey Bowyer presents a concert of American music, including A Child of Our Time by Tippett and songs by Gershwin, Kern and Berlin, and from American shows. Tickets from Albert's Music Shop, Twickenham, or on the door.

St James's Day Celebrations

Sunday 11 July, St James's Church from 11am.



Last year

Do join us as we celebrate our saint's day. **Please note that Parish Communion is at 11am. The preacher at this service is the Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Paul Williams.** The service will be followed by a bring and share lunch in the Vicarage garden.

There is no charge for lunch, but we are asking people to bring their favourite dish to share (main or pudding) along with the clearly written recipe. We plan to include as many of them as we can in a St James's Recipe Book to go on sale before Christmas. If there is a story to tell about the recipe please include that too.

Entry will be by ticket only, available from the Parish Office or from the back of the church after Parish Communion on Sundays.

If you are able to help in any way on the day, please telephone Liz Wilmot on 020 8977 9434 or email elizabethwilmot@talktalk.net or see her after church.

There will be tours of the tower from 1-3pm and the chance to ring the bells.

Healthcare comes at a price



Choice in healthcare, and indeed in almost everything else, has been a policy of the UK government for more than ten years. People have ostensibly been offered a choice of doctors, hospitals, types of treatment, as well as of schools, social services and other resources. But, as everyone knows, resources are always finite. Household finances, pocket money, business assets all have their limits and require some budgeting if they are to be managed responsibly. If we do not, we risk financial embarrassment, or bankruptcy.

Healthcare in this country, or in any other part of the world, also has finite resources. The annual NHS budget is now almost £120bn. This has been increasing steadily over the last decade but the new coalition government has signalled there will be substantial cuts to the healthcare budget in real terms. Resources for providing healthcare will be less. More than 70% of the health budget is spent on paying the 1.3 million people who work in the NHS. Some efficiency savings might be possible but resources will still be appreciably less than now. Rationing already exists, though referred to as resource allocation, or disguised by performance indicators, waiting time targets and 'patient choice'.

Therefore some form of more stringent rationing will become inevitable. How does rationing work? In simple terms rationing is achieved by restricting choice and ultimately curtailing services. This can be done at any level from Parliament, through organisations like the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), down to the local NHS Hospital or Primary Care Trust. The range of options available for diagnosis or treatment is thus constrained to what is affordable for the population served.

What are our rights? The principles on which the NHS was founded in 1948 are that healthcare should be available to all, whatever their needs, and free of charge at the point of delivery. These are finally stated in a proposal for the NHS's first Constitution in the report by Lord Darzi, published in 2008 - sixty years after the NHS was founded. Amazingly there had never been a NHS constitution before! The annual budget in 1948 was £328m (3.5% of Gross Domestic Product [GDP]) and this was not expected to rise as the population would become healthier and so demands diminish! The annual budget now is around 9% of GDP and there has been a commitment by the Government, until recently, to increase this annually. In

the USA nearly 16% of GDP is spent on healthcare for a select group of that population - hence the Presidential debate - though there is no evidence that those people are any healthier. In a country with a national, taxpayer-funded, state-provided healthcare provision we as citizens have a right to the healthcare that we might need, whether we contribute to the national economy or not. We have a right to expect it to be delivered in an appropriate and timely way, and to represent the best standards of care. Conversely the State has a duty, through its NHS employees, to provide such care in an equitable fashion.

If resources are inevitably finite how should we prioritise their distribution? Should it be by greatest need, or greatest worth of the individual perhaps? The young with years of life ahead of them, or the elderly, most of whom consume more healthcare resources in their last year of life than in the whole of the rest of their lives? How should we prioritise? Is one heart transplant equivalent to two hundred hernia operations, or a year's course of anti-cancer drugs? That raises the question of who benefits and who suffers. The people of Oregon in the USA and of Holland have voted on how healthcare resources should be allocated and prioritised for them.

The final message is that resources are finite, demands and expectations will always outstrip them, so some rationing must happen. Exposure to the media now ensures that there is greater awareness of what might be available and what patients might expect. The real question is who should make these decisions: the Government, the people, the patients and their carers - or the economists? This raises the issue of how one decides. What is best for one individual is not necessarily best for society as a whole. So a utilitarian view might be that the care provided should be what brings the best possible good to the greatest number of people. An alternative view is that we have a right to the best healthcare and that there is a duty for the state to provide it. Virtue ethicists argue that there should be a code of behaviour based on moral principles to underpin the way organisations provide care. A simple and pragmatic view is to reduce the arguments to the simple principles of respecting the individual's autonomy, doing good, avoiding doing harm, and ensuring that the distribution of resources is just and fair.

■ Rodney Taylor is Visiting Professor of Bioethics, School of Theology, Philosophy and History, St Mary's University College, London.



O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder



*O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hands have made.
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.*

Refrain:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

*And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:*

*When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!*

Though the hymn in this form has only been around since 1953, it has established itself in hymn books of different parts of the Christian Church, and features as a firm favourite in surveys of popular hymns.

Its origins are fascinating. It is based on a Swedish poem, and its tune is from a Swedish folk song. The poem was translated into German, then Russian, and eventually into English.

In its current form, the words were paraphrased from the Russian by Stuart Hines (1899-1989) a Methodist missionary. He first heard the words sung in Russian whilst on an evangelistic crusade in the Ukraine.

The hymn came later to be recorded by Elvis Presley (1935-1977), and it was used by Billy Graham (1918-) at his evangelistic rallies.



The first two verses (the second is not included above) begin with God as Creator, and encourage the person singing the hymn to first see God in the wonder of the natural world. It moves on, though, to root that wonder in the offering of Christ on the cross. The hymn then concludes by looking to the future, and the hope of the return of Christ.

It will be sung at St. James's on Sunday 20 June.