



The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

## City Walk March 18<sup>th</sup> 2008: “Of God and Mammon”

Eighteen members of the Company walked from Tower Hill to the Bank of England along a route which illustrated the City’s remarkable conjunction of 2000 year old temples of God and 2000AD symbols of Mammon.

‘Blue Badge’ guide, Judy Puller, drew on her remarkable depth of knowledge to put both old and new buildings into their historical and contemporary context. Professor Gerald Noone who organized the event has provided an excellent article on [City Churches](#) with illustrations and notes on the 6 visited.

Some are no longer in regular use. The unreconstructed roofless City church near All Hallows is now a peaceful garden with benches for those wishing to escape the noise. Of particular interest was the church of St.Michael’s, Cornhill – whose Rector is our own Chaplain, Peter Mullen. Behind this church stand some hugely important buildings testifying to the development of coffee houses and thus Lloyds and wider City trading. Also of interest to the Company is the church of St.Mary at Hill which, though not in regular use, is the venue for an annual Fish Harvest Festival, which the Company has been invited to attend. Of the symbols of Mammon, Lord Norman Foster’s brand new delicate glass edifice with clever curvatures stands opposite Rodger’s still fantastic Lloyds Building.

Having practised on the Pompidou Centre, that Rodger’s London building is already a tribute to “pleasing visual longevity” in still looking so good is due to the materials and construction quality employed. This was a noticed source of pride to most of the men present but the building’s “inside-outness” was a source of dislike to the ladies. Perhaps if they saw what this construction permits on the inside by way of uncluttered lines etc, they may relent.

Passing the nearby “Gherkin”, home of our Royal Charter, and Tower 42 (previously NatWest Tower), the last Mammon example was the Bank of England itself where the Master and his wife had worked previously. Their influence got a wonderful entrée to the Parlours and key meeting rooms, with two guides who radiated affection for their subject and the building’s quality.

No charge was made for this event, but at its conclusion a collection for charity raised £120, which the Bank has matched.