

## *"A Parish Church for a Pilgrim People"*

# THE ANGELUS RINGS OUT IN WALSINGHAM

### **New Church to have Parish Room**

In May 2006 the Diocesan Trustees gave permission for the parish room to be completed in the new church as part of the initial project. A further cost of £120,000 was agreed for this part of the building. The immediate consequence was to delay the completion date, but all concerned are agreed that it makes sense to do this work now. The accommodation will comprise a good size meeting room a kitchenette and separate toilet. The room is on the first floor above the sacristy rooms and will be approached by a circular staircase in the round Norfolk tower or by a lift. Members of the parish are eagerly awaiting this new facility as they have not had a parish meeting room in the past.

### **Hand over expected in October**

Some delays were experienced in the original schedule for the building and the addition of the parish room extended this even further but completion is now expected in mid-October.

The main body of the church has a very airy feeling to it and the size of the church surprises all who enter. The plinth for the statue of Our Lady is now complete and some of the wall benches, which lift to allow for wheelchairs, are now

in place. The pews are to be purpose built and should be in place for the opening of the church. In the last week the stonework has begun and the altar steps are now beginning to take shape.

The under floor heating has been tested and seems to be very efficient and the solar panels have already produced a lot of electricity even before it is needed. During the sunny days of July the meter was turning very rapidly.

Most of the woodwork is now in place and awaiting the coloured glass.

The bell sits proudly in the Norfolk tower and rings out the angelus each day at 12 noon.

### **Reception for those involved in building**

A short service of thanksgiving, followed by a tour of the church and a buffet in Elmham House will be held on Tuesday 21 November. Patrons of the Fund Raising Committee, representatives of the Diocese and members of the Shrine Council will be joined by architects, consultants and members of the construction team.

### **The 'Official Opening'**

Although the church should be in use by the end of October 2006 there will still be some aspects unfinished and it has been decided to have the

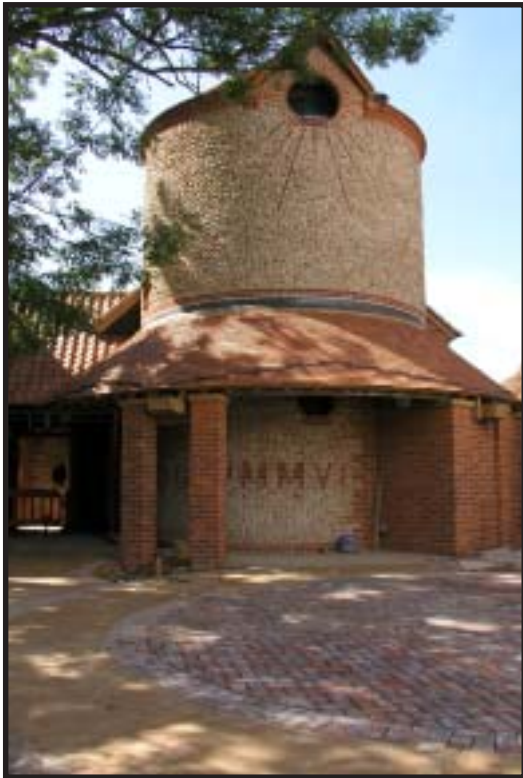
"official opening" on the Feast of the Annunciation, the patronal feast of the Church, which will be celebrated in 2007 on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Details of these celebrations have not been finalised but the church will be open throughout the day. Numbers for the Opening Mass will obviously be restricted by the capacity of the church.

### **Grateful thanks**

In March 1997 a working party met at the request of Bishop Peter Smith to plan for a replacement church in the village of Walsingham. We are now looking forward to the official opening of the church exactly ten years later. It is impossible to pay adequate tribute to those who have worked so hard to bring this project to a satisfactory conclusion or to thank, sufficiently, those who have given such wonderful support both spiritually and financially. The help of people's prayers has been wonderful and much appreciated. The financial help, from the "widow's mite" to the large donations from charitable trusts has been truly humbling. On behalf of the Parish of Walsingham and the National Shrine of Our Lady, and of all those who will find this the "house of God and the gate of heaven" a heartfelt THANK YOU.

Fr. Michael Simison s.m.  
Parish Priest  
Fr. Noel Wynn s.m.  
Shrine Director.

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*Exterior of the New Church*

*Interior of the New Church  
- to the sanctuary*



## FINANCES (as at 18.08.06)

03.03.05	Total project cost	1144852.00
	Additional sum for fittings	80148.00
	Diocese agrees total expenditure	1225000.00
16.05.06	Diocese approves "upper room"	120000.00
	Total project cost	<u>1345000.00</u>
Income at		
30.06.06	Parish	149315.00
	Shrine	600000.00
	(£300,000 of this to be an interest free loan)	
	National fundraising	450000.00
	Grant from Diocese	25000.00
	Interest	37,647.00
	Other donations	145.00
	Total	<u>1262107.00</u>
	Funds still to be raised (including repayment of loan)	382893.00