

"A Parish Church for a Pilgrim People"

CHURCH GOES GREEN

Five tenders were received on 17 December 2004. After negotiating certain savings Wearing, Hastings and Norton recommended to the Diocese the firm of J.S.Hay. The Diocesan Trustees, at their meeting on 3 March 2005, agreed to the appointment of J.S.Hay who were ready to commence work on 4 April with an estimated construction period of 57 weeks.

J S Hay Limited is a family owned business based in Lingwood, near Norwich. They have been building in the region for over 55 years and have built a reputation for producing high quality work. They employ over 80 staff, including many time served craftsmen. They are committed to close cooperation with local residents and have previously done work in Walsingham village.

In the first two months of the contract they have impressed by their ability to keep disruption to a minimum.

Progress Report

Demolition of the old church did not take very long and was done with a minimum of disruption. Work is now well under way on the concrete slab foundation and the concrete retaining walls. It is even possible to see the position of the sanctuary, as there is a circular raised area in the concrete slab. The site has been surrounded by a large fence, nicely painted in white and known by some as the Great Wall of China! The fence

projects slightly into Friday Market but this allows all contractors vehicles to drive straight into the enclosed site.

Up to now, arrival and departure of these vehicles has been well timed to avoid them standing around in the village. A small window in the fence allows passers by to monitor progress.

Renewable energy

"We are endeavouring to provide a carbon neutral building using renewable and non polluting energy." A. Rossi, Consultant Architect.

The design of the church includes provision for photovoltaic cells to provide electricity and ground probes and heat pumps to cater for the under floor heating. As well as reducing running costs for heating and lighting this is seen as a contribution by the church to the care of the environment. The cells will be in the south facing side of the roof and will not detract from the look of the building.

On 24 May 2005 it was announced that the church would be one of fourteen projects to be partially funded by the Department of Trade and Industry under its solar photovoltaic (PV) energy scheme, managed by the Energy Saving Trust. The grant will be about half the installation cost but there are other funding sources, which may contribute now that the Government grant has been approved.

The ground probes use water from deep under the earth to fuel the central heating system and can also be used to lower the temperature in hot weather. The initial grant application for this project was not successful but it is hoped that a re-application with some amendments may succeed.

Finances

After possible savings had been discussed between the architects and the contractor the final project cost stood at £1,144,852.29. The architects commented on this figure: "The above analysis of project costs are based on actual tender and should be achievable subject to any unforeseen costs that may arise during the construction of the Church".

The Bishop and Trustees expressed disappointment that the cost was approximately 22.5% in excess of the original budget figure and asked that additional economies should be investigated. They did however agree to a total expenditure of £1,225,000, which allows approximately £80,000 for fittings not included in the contract.

Church Activities

The Methodist Community in Walsingham kindly offered the parish the use of their chapel for Sunday Mass and this arrangement has proved successful. The Knights of Malta offered the use of their hall, known as Friars' Quire which is

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next to the Methodist chapel and this is being used for weekday Masses and for pilgrim services for people staying at Elmham House. The careful fencing of the building site has allowed continued use of Elmham House gardens for torchlight processions and services for day pilgrimages at weekends.

Some of the benches from the old church are being used in the Chapel of Reconciliation giving much needed extra seating accommodation. Others are stored on the Shrine site. Those items, which will be used in the new church, such as the Stations of the Cross, have been put in storage and others have been disposed of.



Work in progress - the sanctuary of the new church

Walsingham: Shrine/Parish-Development Fund

FUNDRAISING

Total funds available at the end of May 2005 amount to £987,430.23, made up as follows:

Contributions from the parish	115,157.58
Contribution from the Shrine	300,000.00
Interest free loan from the Shrine	300,000.00
Contribution from the Diocese	25,000.00
Interest	11,614.70
Other	145.00
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	751,917.28

This amount is deposited with the Diocese.

Funds held by the Shrine from national fund raising	235,512.95
Total	<hr/>
	987,430.23

(Note. This does not include a refund in excess of £10,000, which has just been received from the Inland Revenue for Gift Aided donations. Thanks are due to all who make their donations in this way.)