

# "A Parish Church for a Pilgrim People"

## FUNDRAISING CONTINUES

Three lots of accounts are featured in this newsletter:

1. Income to the Diocesan account for the purpose of building the new church.
2. Parish fund raising efforts for the year 2005.
3. Accounts of the National Fund Raising Committee, which are handled at the Pilgrim Bureau.

During the year the Parish raised just over £32,000 and has transferred to the Diocesan account a total of £140,000 since fund raising began.

The National Fund Raising committee has raised £367,464.06 of which £350,000 has been transferred to the Diocese.

The Diocesan account shows that £67,000 is still required to meet costs, but then another £300,000 is still to be raised to pay off the loan.

We are most grateful that this money has been raised in such a short time and thank all who have contributed. The accounts show that, apart from items for resale, and printing and advertising, little has been spent on administration.

Some large donations have been received from grant making trusts and from Religious Orders and parishes throughout the country. The Walsingham Association set itself a target of £100,000 and has so far raised £51,000. The scheme to "sponsor a roof tile" has proved very attractive and, through this, many people will be included in the Book of Remembrance and will be remembered in a monthly Mass at the Shrine.

### Building Progress

Progress on the building has been steady and the Contractors are to be praised for their lack of disruption to the life of the village.

Steelwork for the roof frame arrived in October and this seemed to speed up the progress. The solar panels were fitted very quickly and now occupy the whole of one side of the roof. At the time of writing (22.02.06) work is just commencing on drilling for the ground probes which will contribute to the heating of the church.

The round Norfolk tower is reaching into the sky and will soon be complete which will allow scaffolding to be removed so that the roof can be finished.

At the top of the tower there is an aperture for a bell, which has been generously donated by the parish of Sudbury in the Diocese of East Anglia. A small party recently went to Loughborough for the casting of the bell. One of the participants has written an account of this experience.

The contractors are still hopeful of a completion date in early June, but there is some catching up to do.

### Casting of the Bell

"February 9th was bright and sunny (and bitterly cold) when we went by coach to the Victorian red-brick foundry that had been built amidst cherry orchards. We were given a long and most interesting talk about medieval bells, cracked bells, bells tuned to major and minor thirds, and were told that most bells properly cast are expected

to last about a thousand years (no inbuilt obsolescence in this trade!).

Loughborough has the largest bell-foundry in the world, employing forty people, but only four of these actually do the casting. Carpenters, leather-workers and tuners are amongst the other specialists needed.

Bells are cast mainly in bronze (an alloy of tin and 77% copper - originally the tin came from Cornwall, the copper from Devon, and they were brought up from the West Country by ox-cart). The inside shape of the bell is made from a sand-castle, which is strengthened by straw and uric acid (horse-dung) before being thoroughly kiln-dried. (If it weren't dried, the molten bronze would turn the water to steam, and the whole thing would explode, with dire consequences!).

The caster put on goggles, leather aprons and gaiters, then poured the molten, glowing bronze into a huge ladle, and the gantry moved it towards the waiting bell-moulds, which had been buried up to their necks in sand. One man took a willow wand and stirred the mixture thoroughly (its salicylic acid helps to remove air-bubbles and impurities). Then the bright bronze was poured into the moulds, whilst flames burnt off further impurities. And there the bells would stay for about a week, cooling.

Later the bells would be tuned.



