

## St Nicholas Leicester 2006

We maintained our regular Sunday evening Eucharist but numbers attending have been disappointing, in spite of the warm and hospitable atmosphere and the quality of our worship and liturgy. The Christmas Carol Service and Midnight Mass were well attended and the church was as beautifully decorated, as ever. We are very grateful for the services of Fr. Trevor Thurston Smith on the fourth Sunday of every month. We held the annual Lenten service of reflection for people living with the effects of HIV and AIDS and we have engaged in discussions about how St. Nicholas can be more closely involved in this ministry.

A variety of issues were discussed at our DCC meetings but the year was dominated by two issues: our responses to the Diocesan "Shaped by God" proposals and our serious financial situation. The DCC agreed to the conducting of a Parish Audit, which looked at the issues outlined in the Diocesan Shaped by God material. The DCC agreed to take part in discussions initiated by the Dean and Canon Roger Morgan, aimed at developing a closer working relationship between the city centre Anglican churches (the Cathedral, St. Andrews, Jarrom Street, Holy Trinity, Regent Street, St. Margaret, St. Mary de Castro and St. Nicholas) and how we might collaborate in ministry. Churches of other denominations were invited to participate in this process and two places on the working group were allotted to Christians of other denominations, who worship in the city centre. The DCC received updates of the progress of these discussions from Tony Grayson, our representative on the working party and from other members who attended the plenary meetings.

The DCC received reports of our serious financial plight and various remedies were suggested - a notice posted on the outside notice-board, setting up a friends' mailing list. Sadly, none of the remedies suggested brought in any significant amount of increased funds. It was agreed to be fully open with the Archdeacon and Bishop John, when they would attend a meeting in the New Year.

Approaches were made to deliver leaflets to the new canal side apartments and one or two worshippers and visitors from these have attended St. Nicholas.

We received a generous grant from English Heritage, to enable us to carry out vital repairs to the south aisle roof but we have to find a further £10,000 to enable this to go ahead. We participated, once again, in both the annual Early Music Festival and the Castle Park

Festival and received many expressions of appreciation and positive comments about the Church. We held an enjoyable Christmas Social at Kirby Road.

I would like to express my thanks to all who have contributed to our Church life over the past year. I would, especially like to thank our Wardens, Christine Ahronson and Anne Beck, who is also our Treasurer, and our Director of Music, Ian Imlay, to Tony Grayson for his work on the website and for representing us on the city centre working party and to Mark Ingle for his work assisting our Treasurer - as well as thanking them, and others, who turn up, Saturday by Saturday, to keep the Church open for visitors and to do essential maintenance tasks around the place, as well as preparing for the Sunday Eucharist. Thanks to those who lead the intercessions, acts as lectors, serve at the Altar, support the choir and offer refreshments after our worship and on other occasions. Thanks to those who have hosted visits by schools and students from both our Universities, students from which have used St. Nicholas for valuable academic studies. These people, and others as well, contribute to the richness of our life in a whole variety of ways - thank you to every one.

Canon Barry Naylor Priest responsible for St. Nicholas, Leicester