

## **'BACK FROM THE BRINK'**

### **MAJOR RESTORATION WORKS AT ST. DENYS'S--WHAT'S HAPPENING AND WHEN**

**Thanks to a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund Places of Worship scheme, welcome donations from other charities and energetic local fundraising, we're just about to start the long-awaited and badly needed repairs to our north aisle and its precious mediaeval stained glass. For many years--and for a number of causes identified in last year's HLF-funded investigations--the north (or 'Percy') aisle has been gradually parting company from the rest of the church. Lately things have got much worse, with cracks visibly widening and some the stonework and glass in a very bad way. So this restoration comes in the nick of time.**

**The first tranche of work begins on 2.October and will last until late November/early December. This will involve roof and stonework repairs, some underpinning, and the removal of much of the glass for conservation off-site. During this time the north aisle will be sealed off from the rest of the church, which will remain in full use--albeit with a smaller and (we hope) cosier space for the congregation. For insurance reasons, however, access to visitors will be suspended while work is in progress.**

**Then, from December 2017 to mid-March 2018, we get the north aisle back for Christmas and New Year, with polycarbonate sheets temporarily replacing the stained glass windows. Meanwhile, work on the glass and window tracery will be continuing off-site in masons' and glazier's workshops.**

**From mid-March until late May 2018, the aisle will be sealed off again for the completion of the works and the reinstatement of the conserved glass. Again, the rest of the church will continue in use, as we prepare for a grand rejoicing (watch this space) to celebrate getting our north aisle (literally) 'back from the brink', and our church better equipped to serve the Walmgate and deaf communities for many generations to come.**

**Charles Kightly, churchwarden**