

2011 CHURCH REPORT TO ASHBY ST MARY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Apologies

Rev Peter Knight sends his apologies.

Fabric

After five years work to open up the chancel in front of the altar/sanctuary, rebuild the bells and refurbish the organ; we have reverted to a more normal budgetary regime where we need to raise £10/11,000 per annum, just to keep the church open. We have continued our normal fundraising programme of cheese & wine evenings, a flower festival, an old photographs of Ashby exhibition, pimms & strawberries and a harvest festival supper. The money raised has been used to carry out maintenance work such as repairs to the east wall, re-point the churchyard wall, reduce damp by improving drainage and ventilation. In addition to our normal fundraising events we are intending to run an arts festival during the August bank holiday including an art exhibition, art workshops (including botanical drawing/painting, creative writing and rag-rug making) and probably two concerts. If any artists among you has art of any type (paintings, sculpture, quilts or artistic photographs etc) that you wish to display and sell please look out for the details in 'Eleven Says' over the coming months.

Churchyard

The churchyard grass, verges and hedges are always kept neat and tidy, many thanks to the parish council for their contribution towards this work. In this regard we do realise that going forward things are becoming ever more difficult for the Parish Council in these economically stringent times.

Services

As usual for Good Friday there will be a pilgrimage around the five local parishes starting at Ashby St Mary church at 9.30 for anyone to join in.

As well as hearing the bells ring for advertised Sunday services, you may have noticed the bells ring every Friday morning at 8.30 am before a short prayer service usually attended by a small group of people; but anyone can come and join in or just sit and listen if they wish.

An advertised less formal much more relaxed service (signified by the abbreviation PT in Eleven Says) is held once a month without clergy and run by the parish team. In one form or another this has been happening for almost 20 years. Anyone who wants can come and take part, or just watch what happens and join in the refreshments and fellowship afterwards.

The normal range of services as advertised in Eleven Says, work with schools and children/youths as advertised in '5 Alive' the church newsletter continues as usual in the form:-

Little Fish (0 to 5s)
Explorers (7 to 11s)
Halos (11 to 13s)
Rockaholics (14 to 17s)

Roy Roebuck
30th March 2011