

## **ASHBY ST MARY CHURCH REPORT 2014**

We continue to provide a comprehensive range of services from a Christmas carol service to parish team services and activities for younger people organised by our youth worker, Ben Lawrence.

Attendance at services remains relatively constant at 14 parishioners. In addition the church is always available for Baptisms, Weddings and Blessings, and of course conventional Funerals and burial of ashes of whatever faith or no faith.

However, the Rector has announced that he is leaving the Thurton Benefice sometime from August onwards to take up a post in Tunisia for the Church Mission Society. There will inevitably be a considerable period without an incumbent but the Rural Dean, currently Rev Parsonage from Poringland, will be responsible for ensuring continuity until a new Rector or Priest in charge is recruited.

The cost of maintaining the church and churchyard in its current condition is continuing to increase and currently stands at £12,000 per annum which means that we need to hold regular fund raising events. We have already had a cheese and wine evening and throughout this year we are planning another Strawberry & Pimms evening and a sponsored cricket match. The events are usually advertised in the 11 says magazine or with flyers. Your support would be much appreciated.

Roy Roebuck