

## **Church Wardens report to Debenham Parish Council 2007/2008**

Patrick has made a good recovery after breaking his hip 12 months ago. He provides good and caring leadership to our parishes and is prolific in the amount of visiting he does across all our parishes. This visiting is very welcome and a credit to him. Patrick has organised a regular meeting called Philosophy 7 whereby well respected and authoritative speakers give talks on various subjects then the meeting is opened up for discussion. These talks have proved to be extremely interesting, very popular and are recommended to all.

Morning prayer at 08:00 each day has been introduced and a special thank you to Patrick & to Shirley Dalison for making these services possible.

Unfortunately due to lack of numbers we still do not have a Junior Church. This is being looked at by the Ministry team and hopefully in the future we will be able to offer more to our young people.

Attendance at our Communion services has averaged 42 each Sunday. Festival Services were all well attended, particularly at Christmas & Easter.

The Church Organ is to be cleaned and repaired over 2 weeks in June. This requires a complete dis-assembly and then a rebuild. This work is being paid for by the Friends of St Mary which we are very grateful for.

In December of this year we received an offer of a Grant from English Heritage. This Grant is for replacement of the Parvis roof ( The roof above the Galilee Porch – West entrance), replacement of the churchyard drainage system and for more exploratory work to establish the best course of action to correct the outward movement of the North aisle wall. This Grant comes in two stages, the first stage is to do project development to establish the extent of the repairs needed, identify the contractors and sub-contractors required and to produce a well costed estimate. We are given 12 months to complete this first stage. The second stage is the actual repairs. Although English Heritage has offered a generous grant we have to find a substantial amount of money, this is:

Stage 1: English Heritage Grant £13,000. We have to find £4,754

Stage 2: English Heritage Grant £61,000. We have to find £34,751

As you can see this is a large commitment and a lot of fund raising will need to be done.

Once again our thanks to the Parish Council for arranging grass cutting in the churchyard and pruning of the Trees on the East Boundary of the Church yard. The contractors continue to do a good and careful job. It is much appreciated by the P.C.C, villagers and visitors alike.

Church Warden : Peter Holme