
Special Feature

Reverend Wendy's First Year

On Palm Sunday I celebrated my first year in the Shipton Benefice. On one hand I can hardly believe that a whole year has gone by since my arrival and on the other hand I feel as though I have always been here. The feeling of being well-established and settled is, I'm sure, down to the fact that I have been welcomed by the community and made to feel thoroughly at home.



Family Home

Although my children all live away, they seem to fall comfortably into village life when they come home to stay. My cats think that Shipton is a heavenly place to live and my newest cat, Elfin, is a true vicar's moggy, welcoming all

comers to the vicarage and making it her life's mission to attend all my services, whether invited or not!

On a sadder note, I lost my dear mother just before Christmas and only four months after I had moved her to Greenlands. It was however, a very happy last few months for her as she made good friends and was settling well into the Church and local community.

Getting to Know You

One of the most difficult tasks has been getting to know people's names as I have a huge problem remembering names and there have been so many to remember. I hope you will forgive me this weakness and not hold it against me.

I have enjoyed getting to know my Parishioners through the Churches, the school and various organisations and residential homes. I am always delighted at the number of children who wave to me in my car or stop to chat in the street. The local shops give me the opportunity to chat to people I might not otherwise get to speak to. I have met many more of you through weddings, baptisms and funerals. When a priest has been in a post for any length of time he or she gradually comes to know and forge links with the wider family through performing these important offices.

Looking Forward

I now look forward to my second year and the potential for forging new links between the Church and the community. The Church has traditionally played a key role in rural life and though church-going trends and attitudes have changed dramatically over the last fifty years, I hope that I will be able to play a meaningful part in re-establishing the Church at the centre of our community life in this little corner of the world.

With best wishes to you all.

Reverend Wendy