

United Benefice New Vicar I Love Christmas

I have been here as your Vicar for four months, and am loving getting to know you and joining in with the multitude of activities that happen.

How to Engage

As churches in these villages, we are engaging with some big issues. Firstly, we are thinking about how to make ourselves more accessible, and in particular trying to find a 'shop front', somewhere people can drop in, have a chat, exchange information and access facilities. We don't want to stay tucked up in our buildings - we are here to serve the whole community and want to let everyone know we are here for *them*. If you have any ideas about where there may be a space to borrow or rent, where people could be welcomed and gatherings take place, do let me know.

We are also starting a conversation about how our churches can better serve the children and families of this benefice. We already spend a good deal of time in our school, and appreciate the friendships we have with that community. We want to be sure people know that our churches are for everyone, of all ages, and all are welcome. There are a group of people who are having a conversation about this. If you would like to join in I would love to hear from you.



Our Future

All of this sits within the bigger question of: *Where do we want to be in five years time?* Again, the parish churches of this benefice are *your* churches. It would be great if we could hear all kinds of voices about how the churches can best serve the needs of the wider community.

I would welcome your thoughts, call me on: 01993 832514.

My Secret

I have a secret - I love Christmas. I love the fun, joy and togetherness that it brings. I also know that for some Christmas brings sad memories, pain and loneliness.

However, for all of us, Christmas is a statement about our enormous value and worth. That God became just like us; a human being, a fragile baby. God joined in with us, in our fun and joy, in our pain and loneliness, so that we could join in with the life of God, abundant and everlasting life.

As we remember again how valuable we are, valuable enough for God to send his son to share our life, so that we can share his life, let's come together and celebrate! I look forward to seeing you.

Kate Stacey

Local Church Services

Church Services in the Wychwood area over the festive period, including special Christmas Services, are detailed on pages 63 and 65.