

Christmas Thoughts

One Year On: Kate's Message

Last year I wrote here a few months after arriving, full of hopes and dreams for these villages. Now I have seen a whole year in the Wychwoods, the cycle of things that happen, met many more people and discovered new places.

Last year we were hoping to find a 'shop front', where people could drop in, find things out and spend time together. We have had our Benefice Centre in Groves Yard for six months now, and it continues to develop and grow. If you have not already done so, do drop by. We are open week-day mornings from 9.30am to Noon.

Serving Children and Families

We were also thinking about how we serve the children and families of these villages. We now have a monthly service in Milton Church (the last Sunday of the month) specifically designed with families in mind. We also have a similar service in Idbury Church on some first Sundays of the month. We will soon be producing a family programme so that



people know what is happening when and where.

These are just a couple of the things that have been going on. There is a lot more to talk about so do stop me in the Co-op, Library, or drop by at the Centre.

Sharing Christmas

This is the season that we come to celebrate Christmas together, through activities at

school, through Christmas fairs, through singing carols around the tree and in our churches at carol services, crib services and Christmas services.

I pray that we will be reminded of how good our communities are, of those people who might need visiting in our street, of our enormous value and worth, and of the God who gave his only Son, as a baby, to offer us a way out of the mess we often find ourselves in.

As we remember again how valuable we are, how much we have been given, and how much we have to share, let's come together and celebrate!

I look forward to seeing you.

With love,
Rev'd Kate Stacey

For details of the local church services over the Christmas period see page 63