

Happy Christmas, Everyone!

Many people say that Christmas is a time for children. Well, that's true. It's a time when we hope that all children will have a wonderful time – a time of fun and celebration with their families and friends.

But Christmas is a time for children in another sense, too. It's a time when all God's children can celebrate together. That's **all** God's children – old or young, of whatever nation, whatever generation.

On Christmas Day, Christians the world over will celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. We'll remember that Jesus was the promised Saviour – the one God had said would bring freedom and hope to all his children, the promise of forgiveness of sins and of new life in God's kingdom.

In this troubled world, where there sometimes seems to be so much violence, and often such a sense of hopelessness, we need to remember the great gift that God gave us all. It's a gift of hope and peace, of celebration and joy. Christmas Day is a chance to celebrate and to thank God for his wonderful love for us, shown in the birth of a baby laid in a manger, born into a troubled and anxious world. Here is the hope and peace we need today in our world, here is the love all God's children can receive through the gift of the Christ Child.

This Christmas we hope you will join us as we celebrate this wonderful event. You can find out about all our services in Advent and Christmas in this newsletter, in our weekly News in the Pews, or on our Deanery website: www.wrockwardinedeanery.co.uk. You will be very welcome at any of these services, and we do hope to see you there.

And may we all have a very joyful and blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

David Chantrey (Team Rector and Rural Dean)