



The Edgehill Churches

Parish Link

Loving
God,
Serving
People,
Growing
Community

All I want for Christmas... December 2022/January 2023

Maria Carey recently failed in her bid to trademark the phrase 'Queen of Christmas' because of an objection raised by another singer, Elizabeth Chan.

In explaining why she objected, Chan said, "Christmas is for everyone. It's meant to be shared; it's not meant to be owned."

Christmas is for everyone, whatever their faith or belief. Christians celebrate as they remember the birth of Christ (although he wasn't actually born on 25th December), and many, who don't share their belief, still enjoy it as a season where we have the chance to catch up with family and friends, where we are 'lighter' in spirit, and where there are plenty of excuses for a good party.

For many though it will also be a time of stress and pressure, a time of tensions and arguments, a time of longing for a home they've had to flee because of war or violence, and a time (especially this year) where budgets are stressed beyond breaking point**.

Globally and nationally, we seem to lurch from one crisis to the next. It has been that way through all of history, but with instant global communication, the frequency of 'lurching' seems to be increasing... and with 24-hour news we can see it happening before our eyes.

Couple the bombardment of negative news, with the frantic pace of Christmas, and it is no wonder that people can feel stressed at this time if year... there is no room for our souls to breathe.

What do you want for Christmas?

I'm hoping for times of sharing laughter, drinks and meals with people I love, and I'm looking forward to gathering with many others at the various Christmas services and events in the area. With COVID concerns over these last 2 years, this is the first

Christmas since 2019, that we've been able to have all the 'usual' events and services on the Christmas calendar.



*May the courage of Mary,
The faith of Joseph,
The eagerness of the shepherds,
The perseverance of the wise men,
The joy of the angels,
And the peace of the Christ child
Be with you this Christmas*

But I think that what I really want for Christmas is something behind all that... a desire for peace, not just for me, but for everyone. I don't mean an absence of conflict and wars in the world, although that would be fantastic! I mean a peace that comes from a sense of belonging, of being known, of being loved and accepted just as we are. A peace that renews and refreshes and strengthen us for anything that life can throw at us. This is what Christians refer to as the 'Peace of God that passes all understanding.'

Christmas is for everyone, and I pray that we would all come to know more of that Peace of God this Christmas.

Rev Barry Jackson

**** The foodbank always does Christmas food boxes for our clients. And this year we're preparing more to meet the increased need. If you, or someone you know, might benefit from a hamper, please contact Barry at barry@edgehillchurches.org**



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Benefice Web Site www.edgehillchurches.org

DECEMBER/JANUARY SERVICES IN THE EDGEHILL PARISHES

	Kineton	Combroke	Radway	Ratley	Warmington	Shotteswell	
4th Dec	10.00am Simply Celebrate		8.30am Communion	10.30am Communion		8:30am BCP Comm	
11th Dec	10.30am Communion	9.00am Communion	3.00pm Nativity Carol service		10.30am Communion	4.30pm Christingle Carol Service	
18th Dec	8.30am BCP Comm	6.30pm Carol Service	5.00pm Nativity Carol Service		6.30pm Carol Service	10.30am Carol service	8.30am Communion
24th Dec		5:00pm Crib Service			5:00pm Crib Service	6:00pm Carols on the green	4:00pm Carols round the organ
		11:00pm Communion	11:30pm Communion				11:30pm Communion
25th Dec		10:30am Communion		10:30am Communion	10:30am Communion		
1st Jan		10.30am Benefice Comm				8:30am BCP Comm	
8th Jan		10.00am Simply Celebrate	9.00am Communion			10.30am Communion	
15th Jan	8.30am BCP Comm	10.30am Morning Worship		10.30am Communion	6.30pm Communion		8.30am Communion
22nd Jan		10.30am Communion				10.30am Communion	8.30am Communion
29th Jan		10.30am Morning Worship					10.30am Communion



MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICE
Thursday 1st December at 11am
 at St Peter's Church, Kineton
 With traditional hymns played on the organ.

SHOTTESWELL LUNCH

Saturday 3rd Dec, 12.30 - 2pm, Shotteswell Village Hall

Come and join us for some good company over a light lunch. Small raffle with proceeds in aid of St Laurence Church, Shotteswell. Details from Pauline 01295 730687 or pauline.tarrant@hotmail.co.uk



SIMPLY CELEBRATE

Sunday 4th Dec & 8th Jan
10am St Peter's Kineton



Come for **breakfast** to begin the service. A time with God for everyone. Our young people help lead the service with Bible readings, leading prayers, acting in dramas, leading the actions in songs, and more

Charity Pop-Up Board Games Café

Friday 2nd Dec at 7.00pm at

The Swan function room, Kineton

If you love board games, then come and join us

BOOKING ESSENTIAL - Adults and ages 14+ only
(under 18's must be accompanied by an adult)

This is a **free event**, but (if you are able) there will be the opportunity to make a donation to the foodbank.

No meal is being provided, so please **bring your own food or a takeaway with you.**

We'll plan to eat at 7 and start playing at 7.30

More details from

charlotte_helene93@hotmail.com

or on Eventbrite (see QR code)



PINTS OF VIEW

The White Swan, Kineton

Sunday 22nd Jan at 6pm

Whatever your **pint of choice**, come & share your **point of view**. Each month we explore a theme or story from the news.



THE BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ

A weekly drop-in group

Mondays 2-3pm

Methodist Hall, Kineton

Grief and loss of any type is painful and isolating. It can be very hard to deal with alone or with family who are also grieving. Come and join us in a safe, gentle environment for tea/coffee and a chat. All welcome!

For more information contact Dr Helen Gunton on helengunton1@gmail.com



RADWAY'S TEA, CHAT & PLAY

Every Wednesday 3pm - 5pm in the Village Hall

All ages are welcome from babies to grandpas!



TEA & CHAT

Friday 27th Jan 3pm-4.30pm

in Ratley Village Hall

Come and meet up with neighbours and friends for a chat and catch up. Cost £1.00

Everyone welcome. No need to book, just turn up!

