



The Edgehill Churches

Parish Link

Loving
God,
Serving
People,
Growing
Community

Conflict is normal

February 2023

'What is the most important thing our society needs?' was the question all the beauty pageant contestants were asked in the film 'Miss Congeniality'. To cheers and applause from the audience, they all give the stock answer, 'World peace.'

World peace seems like a great idea in theory, but can it ever be a reality? With the many international conflicts, the disputes and strikes in the UK, and with tensions and conflict we experience in everyday life, then 'world peace' seems like a pipe dream, and the proclaimed hopes of the contestants on Miss Congeniality to be naïve.

If by world peace, we mean the complete absence of conflict, then it is unattainable. Tensions and conflict are normal in any human community.

John Paul Lederach (a Professor of International Peacebuilding) uses a question to help people understand conflict. He asks, 'What are the similarities and differences between a village and an ant colony?'

There are similarities in that we work hard, we go out and provide, from a distance we all look alike.

There are differences in that we think and feel, but ants act by instinct; we have choices and dreams we are quite diverse within our own colony, but ants work with a single purpose and are identical; our lives and experiences are so much more dynamic and richer than ants. One big difference is that, within their colony, ants don't fight

Lederach writes,

The very elements that make human experience rich and dynamic, the characteristics missing in the experience of ants, are the elements that make conflict inevitable

In other words, if you're human, then tensions and conflict are a normal part of life. We've all been involved in arguments or disagreements. We've probably all been in the situation where we've struggled to sleep, either because we feel so angry when recalling an incident... or feel so guilty about something that we've said or done.

Conflict is normal.

However, that does not mean that we should just accept conflict, put up with it, ignore it, or try to avoid it. If we do that, then we and others, will end up living with the constant stress of unresolved conflict.

The lack of conflict in any community, or relationship, is not a sign of maturity, it's a sign of apathy; the tensions will be there, but nobody cares enough to call them out and deal with them. A mature community, or relationship, is one in which conflict is dealt with well.

Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.' (Matt 5:9). But peacemaking is never easy; sometimes it can seem easier to ignore tensions, turn a blind eye to injustice, and put up with the discomfort of living with the status quo.

Navigating a divided and complex world can be hard. Many of us long to make a difference, but often we don't know how to respond or where to start. And that is why Archbishop Justin Welby has brought together leading practitioners and thinkers to create a course called Difference.

Difference is a free 5-week course that's designed to help people learn new approaches to dealing with conflict, new ways of crossing divides, and better techniques for navigating tensions/disagreements.

From February 26th we will be running the Difference course using a combination of online and face-to-face resources. Online there will be a series of short videos (~5mins), pop quizzes, and chat groups, and there will also be the opportunity for weekly in-person discussions in the pub and other locations.

The Difference course is not a panacea for world problems, but if each of us gets better at dealing with tensions and conflict, if each of us becomes a better peacemaker, then it can only help us do our part to help bring more peace in our world. So, I would encourage everyone to invest a few minutes a day exploring the online resources and learning, or re-learning, some of the ways that we can be better at dealing with conflict.

To find out more information, or to register for a free place on the course, see the advert overleaf.

I hope you can join us.

Rev Barry Jackson

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FEBRUARY SERVICES IN THE EDGEHILL PARISHES

	Kineton	Combroke	Radway	Ratley	Warmington	Shotteswell
5th	10.00am Simply Celebrate		8.30am Communion	10.30am Communion		8:30am BCP Comm
12th	10.30am Communion	9:00am Communion			10.30am Communion	
19th	10.30am Morning Worship		10.30am Communion	3.00pm Communion		8.30am Communion
26th		10.30am Benefice Communion				

SHOTTESWELL LUNCH

Saturday 4th Feb 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

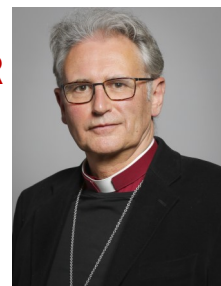


BENEFICE SERVICE WITH BISHOP CHRISTOPHER

26th Feb 10.30am in Combroke

Bishop Christopher is coming to celebrate communion with us at the launch of the Difference course.

I hope you can join us.



SIMPLY CELEBRATE

**Sunday 5th Feb
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

difference.

Conflict resolution in a divided world

Online and in-person from 26th Feb
On our new 'Life Keys' App and website

Difference is a 5 session course that explores how we can help resolve conflict and see transformation in our everyday lives. Difference will look at how we cross divides, disagree well, let go, and more

"Reconciliation is not the ending of all difference, but the transformation of how we deal with difference."

Archbishop Justin Welby

For more info or to book a place use the QR code, or contact Katie at edgehilloffice@gmail.com



St Peter's invite you to join us for

SUNDAY SCHOOL

@ Kineton Primary School.

For children ages 4-11

Next meeting on Sunday Feb 12th



SUNDAY SCHOOL is an action-packed time for children, where parents can drop them off at the school, and pick them up later from church.

For safeguarding reasons, all children coming to **SUNDAY SCHOOL** need to be registered in advance.

For more info, or to register your child use the QR code or contact Sarah.jackson05@hotmail.co.uk



TEA & CHAT

Friday 24th Feb 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!



PINTS OF VIEW

The White Swan, Kineton
Sunday 26th Feb 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 Scout Hut, 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!

