



The Edgehill Churches

Parish Link

Loving
God,
Serving
People,
Growing
Community

Reconciliation

April 2023

Some Outlook readers may know that we have 2 cats – an elderly Siamese boy, and a 9-month old black female kitten. Unfortunately, the 2 are incompatible and even after 6 months or so, they still hate each other. We have tried to reconcile them, and brought them together on numerous occasions, but they both go straight into attack mode and there is a lot of ‘cat swearing’. So we have an elaborate dance of moving them, morning and evening, to different parts of the house. Their natural instinct is to see each other as bitter enemies.

With us humans, it can sometimes feel very hard to step over the walls and barriers we have built up against people we don’t get on with, people we dislike, people we fear, or even hate. We may end up thinking of them as ‘the other’. For example, the row over immigrants is often characterized in such terms: ‘they’ don’t belong; ‘they’ come here to take our jobs, and so on.

Those of us who have been doing the *Difference Course*, run by our vicar, Revd Barry Jackson, over the past few weeks, have looked at ways of bridging barriers we hold against others, by being curious: looking to learn the point of view of those we avoid, or fear; by being present: open to sensitively sharing our own positions, and willing to keep talking to those whom we find it harder to get on with; and by reimagining what the future could look like where we have learned to live with those we find ‘challenging’, by working towards a relationship of mutual respect, understanding, perhaps forgiveness, openness and honesty. Such changes may lead to reconciliation, one with another, in due course.

It’s hard to think of ways that public opinion in general, and some politicians in particular, can be reconciled to opening our shores and welcoming refugees again. And it seems even more unlikely that wars such as the one started by Russia against Ukraine will end in peace and reconciliation any time soon. But in small ways at least, perhaps we can be agents of reconciliation in our own situations, or in our communities.

Some years ago, I trained as a mediator, and from

time to time, I’m involved in mediation work with individuals or groups of people who are in conflict. The Conflict Transformation team that I’m part of, aims to help people on both sides of a disagreement work through their issues and look for common ground, in order to bring healing and transformation of the conflict; though we have to be realistic enough to recognise that that won’t always happen. On the occasions when the opposing parties eventually reach mutual agreement,

there is almost a sigh of relief. I find that most of the people I try to help don’t really want to be ‘at war’ with others.

The message of Good Friday and Easter Day is that God doesn’t want humans to be at odds with one another or alienated from him. God isn’t at war with humanity. God loves us all and wants to reconcile us to himself. That’s why Jesus died on the cross and rose again on Easter Day... to show us that God’s love for us breaks down every wall and barrier, even that of death itself.

Jesus said, ‘Blessed are those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.’ In other words, showing people ‘how to cooperate instead of compete or fight, helps you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.’

May God bless you all with peace this Holy Week and Easter.

Revd Dr Beren Hartless



Churches’ Contact Details:

Rector: Rev Barry Jackson Tel: 01926 640248
email: barry@edgehillchurches.org

Associate Ministers

Revd Dr Beren Hartless Tel: 01926 642975
email: beren.hartless@btinternet.com

Rev Alison Abbott (curate) tel: 07923 442970
email: rev.alisonabbott@gmail.com

Administrator:

Katie Hartless Rose Tel 01926 641401
email: edgehilloffice@gmail.com

Benefice Web Site www.edgehillchurches.org

APRIL SERVICES IN THE EDGEHILL PARISHES

	Kineton	Combroke	Radway	Ratley	Warmington	Shotteswell
2nd	10.00am Simply Celebrate		8.30am Communion	10.30am Communion		8:30am BCP Comm
9th	10.30am Communion	9:00am Communion	3pm Communion	6.30pm Communion	10.30am Communion	8.30am Communion
16th	8.30am BCP Comm	10.00am Morning Worship		10.30am Communion	6.30pm Communion	8.30am Communion
23rd		10.30am Communion			10.30am Communion	8.30am Communion
30th		10.00am Morning Worship			10.30am Benefice Comm	

SHOTTESWELL LUNCH

**Saturday 1st April 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 2nd April
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



CONNECT

A life group for 12-15 year olds on
Films, video clips, pizza, chill & chat about God, life, the universe and everything.

Next Meeting: Sun 2nd April 6 to 7:30pm



MAUNDY THURSDAY MEAL

Thurs 6th Apr 6.30pm at Kineton Church

A reflective communion service focussed on the events of the last evening Jesus spent with his disciples before he was crucified.



THE EDGEHILL GOOD FRIDAY WALK

Friday 7th April starts at Shotteswell Church at 11:30am

Join us for a 6.5 mile walk around the Edgehill area with a short service at each of the villages along the way. **Everyone Welcome**



TEA & CHAT

Friday 28th Apr 3pm-4.30pm
in Ratley Village Hall

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



WARMINGTON VILLAGE PRESENTS
EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA
Monday 10th April

10AM - 12PM **EGG HUNT TREASURE TRAIL** **VILLAGE HALL OX17 1BX**

BONNET PARADE JUDGED BY THE EASTER BUNNY & MUCH MORE...

All proceeds go towards the Childrens Play Facilities
Please RSVP by 3rd April so bunny can get the eggs
eggstravaganza.warmington@gmail.com
£5 over 2yrs £2 under 2yrs



RADWAY'S TEA, CHAT & PLAY

Every Wednesday 3pm - 5pm in the Village Hall

All ages are welcome from babies to grandpas!



Ratley, Edgehill and Upton
Coronation Celebrations...

God Save The King

A weekend of events and activities to mark the coronation

Friday 5th May 5.30pm at Ratley Village Hall

Ratley and District Youth Club invite people to enjoy tea and sandwiches provided by our young people.

Sunday 7th May at Ratley church & churchyard

10.30am A special coronation family service

12.00 noon Picnic and Fun in the Churchyard

Bring a picnic, dress fit for a king, games and activities.

Drinks refreshments provided or BYOB.

3.00pm King's Tree planting and dedication in the churchyard.

