



The Edgehill Churches

Parish Link

*Loving
God,
Serving
People,
Growing
Community*

A time of Renewal

February 2024

Dear friends,

At the time of writing it is mid-January, following much feasting and merriment with friends and family as we celebrated Christmas, the story of when God's love became visible in the world, the Christ Child's birth. 'Wise men from the east' finally concluded their journey marked at Epiphany when they arrived at the manger, kneeling after realising that God was made manifest to them in the baby Jesus. The joy and feasting continues then, all the way through this so-called Epiphanytide until it gives way to a new season, one traditionally of fasting in Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, 14th Feb.



The Christmas story of journeying, taxes, stables and shepherds is the equivalent of our common day-to-day life two thousand-odd years ago, but it is set amid the heavenly picture of angels entering the world we know, and of Jesus' birth; life in its fullness when the day-to-day and the heavenly adjoin. If we lose sight of this heavenly picture, and see only the day-to-day, it is perhaps a bit like looking at photograph on our mobile phone through a filter. What might we miss?

Our images of Lent before the joy of Easter Day can become somewhat caricatured as rather glum and severe. The characteristic and historic notes of self-examination, penitence, fasting and preparations for Easter, actions that move us decisively from the feasting of Christmas and Epiphany to the fasting of Lent can all seem, on the face of it, quite stern. And yet, fasting, or at the very least, 'time restricted eating' form part of a great deal of popular health and fitness advice, and are not so dissimilar to the traditions of Lent, albeit with a different motivation.

If we are to live life in all its fullness, to see the whole picture by maintaining our view of the day-to-day alongside the heavenly, Lent offers us a time of renewal, something restorative to check the balance between the day-to-day and spiritual aspects of our lives. Making space to slow down, to stand back a little and assess our active choices, or things that have just crept in to upset the balance; those things that filter out, or drain the colour from

the fullness of life gives a very healthy purpose to a Lenten 'fast'.

Aside from fasting and generally eating more frugally during Lent (following Jesus' example when he fasted for forty days in the wilderness), there are so many other ways that people enter into this time of spiritual renewal. Some people abstain from things like social media or make a determined effort to avoid gossip. Others take up something positive; like forty days of acts of kindness, forty phone calls to the important people in our lives, or forty days of reading books.

As another alternative, perhaps you'd like to join us on our Lent course this year? We'll be exploring five themes from the musical *Les Misérables*; Grace, Responsibility, Righteousness, Hope and Love (more details inside). We would be delighted if you'd come and join us; please do get in touch if you'd like to find out more.

Finally, may I say thank you to you all for making my wife Lynn, our son Clement and myself so very welcome, and for inviting us into all that happens in and around our local villages. I now enter into my sixth month as curate, and if we have yet to meet, I look forward to it greatly.

Rev Matthew Arnold

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FEBRUARY SERVICES IN THE EDGEHILL PARISHES

| | Kineton | Combroke | Radway | Ratley | Warmington | Shotteswell |
|------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 4th | 10.00am Simply Celebrate | | 8.30am Communion | 10.30am Communion | | 8.30am BCP Comm |
| 11th | 10.30am Communion | 9:00am Communion | | | 10.30am Communion | |
| 18th | 10.30am Morning Worship | | 10.30am Communion | 6.30pm Communion | | 8.30am Communion |
| 25th | 10.30am Communion | | | | 10.30am Communion | 8.30am Communion |

SHOTTESWELL LUNCH

Saturday 3rd 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



10:10

**A YOUTH GROUP FOR
9-11 YEAR OLDS**

Sun 11th Feb, 5.30-7.00pm

10:10 is a new monthly youth group for years 5-6. We meet at the vicarage in Kineton for pizza, games and chat about God, life, the universe and everything.

Registration essential

Sarah at sarah.jackson05@hotmail.co.uk
or Liz at SPKfamilies@gmail.com



SIMPLY CELEBRATE

Sunday 4th 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



St Peter's invite you to join us for
SUNDAY SCHOOL

at Kineton Primary School

on **Sunday February 11th** from 10:15-11:30

For children ages 4-11

An action-packed time for children, where parents can drop them off at the school, and pick them up later from church. Details from Liz at lizhostelofson@yahoo.com.



**Build imagination
with Lego!**

**Sat 17th Feb from 10:30am
in Warmington Village Hall**

Snacks and drinks available and it's free too!

Children must bring an adult
(**BUT** adults don't need to be accompanied by a child!)
for more details contact:

Rev.AlisonAbbott@gmail.com or phone 07923 442970

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TEA & CHAT

Friday 23rd 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!



To love another person is to...

See the Face of God

Victor Hugo



**A LENT COURSE IN FIVE EVENINGS
WEEK BEGINNING 12th FEBRUARY**

**GRACE RESPONSIBILITY
RIGHTEOUSNESS HOPE LOVE**

based on the
Victor Hugo classic

Les Misérables

Join one of our Lent Groups

Watch this hit film together
in the week beginning 12th February

Then explore key themes from the film in
five further evenings through Lent

Details from Barry Jackson on 01926 640248



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Wednesday 14th February

10:30am with Communion at Warmington Church
7:30pm with Evening Prayer at Kineton Church



THE BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ

A weekly drop-in group

Mondays 2:00-3:30pm Scout Hut, Kineton

Grief and loss of any type is painful and isolating. Come and join us in a safe, gentle environment for tea/coffee and a chat.

More info from Matthew at mtr.arnold@googlemail.com



RADWAY'S TEA, CHAT & PLAY

Every Wednesday 3pm - 5pm in the Village Hall

All ages are welcome from babies
to grandpas!

