



# The Edgehill Churches

## Parish Link

Loving  
God,  
Serving  
People,  
Growing  
Community

Let your Yes be Yes, and your No be No...

July 2023

The General Election just around the corner and we've been immersed for several weeks in the political rhetoric of each party's proposals... and in the unending analysis of the news media. With all that's going on, Harold Wilson's often quoted observation "a week is a long time in politics" seems highly relatable. In fact, in our present age of almost immediate media connection, the same might be said to be true for a day, or even an hour.

Such is the landscape in which politicians seek to communicate their party's priorities and manifesto, it is no doubt hard for them to gain and hold our attention. Amid the soundbites and emotive language employed to catch our ear, it can be exhausting to work out what's really being said.

Of course, the world is a complicated place... there are so many ways in which we might understand and prioritise the problems that face our country, and even more ways of legitimately tackling those problems. Inevitably there are choices and compromises that need to be made.

With all these conflicting demands, politicians are wary of being 'caught out', so they can be more guarded in what they say. With all the rhetoric, it's unsurprising that we find ourselves longing to hear people 'say what they mean, and mean what they say'.

Among his teaching in the sermon on the mount, Jesus said, "Just say 'yes' and 'no.' When you manipulate words to get your own way, you go wrong." (Matt 5:37 MSG)

Jesus was speaking about the way that people make promises, he said that saying that our speech should be trustworthy and true... always. In other words, there should, be no need for the added complication of promises, just speak the truth. Jesus was advocating for those much-needed attributes of authenticity and integrity.

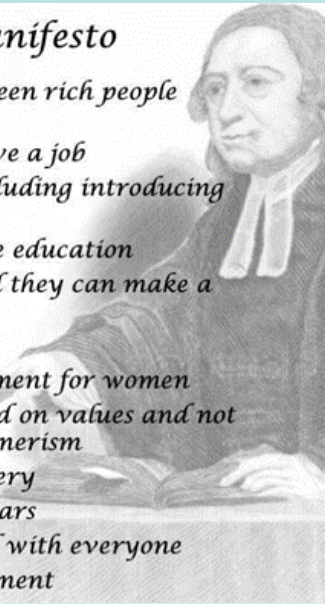
Sounds great, but none of us are perfect, and in the complexities of life we all struggle with this, not just politicians. Jesus knew that no-one could live that way all the time, but he wasn't setting people up to fail... he was setting a standard to aim towards. It's a standard that all of us long for in the mass of promises in various manifestos

published in the run up to the election.

In the 18th century, the famed preacher John Wesley wrote about the things which he felt were important. It is interesting that these same issues are still hot topics today.

### John Wesley's Manifesto

1. Reduce the gap between rich people and poor people
2. Help everyone to have a job
3. Help the poorest, including introducing a living wage
4. Offer the best possible education
5. Help everyone to feel they can make a difference
6. Promote tolerance
7. Promote equal treatment for women
8. Create a society based on values and not on profits and consumerism
9. End all forms of slavery
10. Avoid getting into wars
11. Share the love of God with everyone
12. Care for the environment



Admittedly number 11 is not in the manifesto of any party, but all the parties would probably claim to be trying to deliver on the others... they just have differing views on how those goals should be achieved.

With the mass of rhetoric in the campaigning it is easy to slip into cynicism, thinking that no political party is going to deliver what we believe is needed. However, most politicians are good people who do, or will (if elected for the first time), work hard to serve their constituents.

So, I would like to encourage us all to take time to read the party manifestos and use their vote in this election. Whether our vote is for the winning candidate or not, when we take part we add weight to the democratic process and we are letting our yes be yes and our no be no.

Godspeed,  
Rev Matthew Arnold

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## JULY/AUGUST SERVICES IN THE EDGEHILL PARISHES

	Kineton		Combroke	Radway	Ratley	Warmington	Shotteswell
7th	4.00pm Breathing Space	10.00am Simply Celebrate		8.30am Communion	10.30am Communion		8.30am BCP Comm
14th		10.30am Communion	9.00am Communion			10.30am Communion	8.30am Communion
21st	8.30am BCP Comm	10.30am Morning Worship		10.30pm Communion	6.30pm Communion		8.30am Communion
28th		10.30am Communion				10.30am Benefice Com	
4th		10.00am Simply Celebrate			10.30am Benefice Com		8.30am BCP Comm
11th		10.30am Communion	10.30am Benefice Com				
18th		10.30am Communion		10.30am Benefice Com			
25th		10.30am Morning Worship					10.30am Benefice Com

### SHOTTESWELL VILLAGE FETE

**Saturday 6th July 1 – 5pm**  
**Shotteswell Playing Field**



at ~1pm. Stalls, competitions, displays and  
 There is also a fantastic raffle with fabulous prizes.

**Admission and parking is free.**

Profits shared between the church and the village hall

### Build imagination with Lego!

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup> July, 10:30am, Warmington Village Hall**  
 Snacks/drinks available and it's free!  
 Children must bring an adult  
**(BUT adults don't need to be accompanied by a child!)**  
 for more details from [revv.AlisonAbbott@gmail.com](mailto:revv.AlisonAbbott@gmail.com)  
LEGO® is a trademark of the LEGO Group of Companies  
 who do not sponsor, authorize, or endorse this event

### SIMPLY CELEBRATE

**7th July & 4th August**  
**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.

### PINTS OF VIEW

**The White Swan, Kineton**  
**Every Sunday at 7.30pm**

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

### Breathing Space

**Sunday 7th July, 4 - 5pm at Kineton church**

A time of mindful, meditative  
 prayer to help release tensions and find some peace in our  
 busy lives. 4pm for refreshments & 4.30 for the service.  
 More info from Beren on [berenhartless@hotmail.com](mailto:berenhartless@hotmail.com)

### TEA & CHAT

**Friday 28th July 3pm-4.30pm**  
 in Ratley Village Hall

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

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**at Kineton Primary School**  
**on Sunday 21st July from 10:15-11:30**  
**For children ages 4-11**

### END OF YEAR FUN AND GAMES

More details from Liz at  
[SPKfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:SPKfamilies@gmail.com)

### RADWAY'S TEA, CHAT & PLAY

**Every Wednesday 3pm – 5pm in the Village Hall**  
 All ages are welcome from babies  
 to grandpas!

### SIMPLY PLAY

**Wednesdays 9.00am-11am**  
**St Peter's Kineton in term time**

Come and catch up with friends over  
 coffee and cake whilst your toddlers enjoy our new soft  
 play area. More details Liz [SPKfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:SPKfamilies@gmail.com)

### THE BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ

**A weekly drop-in group**  
**Mondays 2.30-3.30pm 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.

### Living Well

**A course for**  
**Improving Wellbeing,**  
**Managing Stress and**  
**Building Resilience**

**In person & online from 11th September**  
 More details in September