



The Edgehill Churches

Parish Link

Loving
God,
Serving
People,
Growing
Community

Light and Hope

December 2024/January 2025

In the build-up to Christmas, the shops are starting to fill with decorations and gift ideas. For several months we've been planning the various Christmas and carol services, and I am looking forward to getting together with people from around the area at many festive events over this season.

For our family, Christmas will be a bit different this year as our eldest has moved to Australia. When I get back from midnight communion, we'll be calling her to wish her Happy Christmas, as it will be past I am in the morning for her.

But for many people, Christmas will be more than different, it will be difficult, if not impossible. Wars continue to escalate around the world, and the impact of climate change is bringing huge suffering. On top of that, the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury over the findings in the Makin report reminds us of the great suffering that can occur when we fail to safeguard the most vulnerable among us.

It was not that different when Jesus was born. There was a military occupation, there was the killing of children, and Jesus' family were displaced as refugees fleeing to Egypt for safety. In that dark time, fanfares of angels announced the coming of the prince of peace, the saviour who would bring light and hope to the world.

Sending a baby might seem an odd way for God to bring hope to the world, but God isn't looking for a quick fix (there isn't one), but something more profound. The heart of the problems we face is in the way that humanity treats one another. My years of leading strategic change management in industry, and now in the church, taught me that you can never force lasting change on anyone.

God knows that too, so he doesn't force change, but through Jesus sets in motion a long-term strategic plan to show humanity a different way to live. Jesus comes not in force, but humbly and vulnerably. He grows up and starts a movement, a community founded on love and compassion with a mandate to change the world through sharing that love.

Over the centuries there have been many times the church has got things badly wrong, and it still does. But God has continued to work with anyone (whether they

are part of the church or not) who wants to be part of that long-term strategic plan to heal our world.



I feel very fortunate to have witnessed many times when lives have been transformed by acts of love and compassion. Not only through things like the foodbank and the many community events that bring people together, but also in the many everyday ways that people in our communities go the extra mile to help others. And these same sorts of acts of kindness go on all over the world.

As we gather at Christmas, we remember the birth of the child who started this peaceful revolution, and we share hope and love to encourage one another. We also recommit ourselves to do our part in joining with God's long-term plan to transform the world through the love he offers.

Merry 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 food box, please contact Barry at barry@edgehillchurches.org



Churches' Contact Details:

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DECEMBER/JANUARY SERVICES IN THE EDGEHILL PARISHES

	Kineton	Combroke	Radway	Ratley	Warmington	Shotteswell	
1st Dec	10.00am Simply Celebrate		8.30am Communion	10.30am Communion		8.30am BCP Comm	
8th Dec	10.30am Communion	9.00am Communion			10.30am Communion	8.30am Communion	
15th Dec	8.30am BCP Comm	6.30pm Carol Service		3.00pm Nativity Carol Service	6.30pm Carol Service	4.30pm Nativity Carol Service	
22nd Dec		10.30am Communion	5.00pm Nativity Carol Service		10.30am Nativity Carol Service		
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	11:00pm Communion			11:30pm Communion	
25th Dec		10:30am Communion		10:30am Communion			
29th Dec		10.30am Morning Worship		10:30am Benefice Comm			
5th Jan		10.00am Simply Celebrate		8.30am Communion	10.30am Communion	8.30am BCP Comm	
12th Jan		10:30am Communion	9.00am Communion		10.30am Communion		
19th Jan	8.30am BCP Comm	10.30am Morning Worship		10.30am Communion	6.30pm Communion	8.30am Communion	
26th Jan		10.30am Communion			10.30am Communion	8.30am Communion	

SIMPLY CELEBRATE

Sunday 1st Dec & 5th 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

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Sunday December 1st 2024 at 4pm in Kineton church



In place of our usual 1st Sunday Breathing Space service, St Peter's Kineton is holding a Blue Christmas service.

Blue Christmas is a gentle, contemplative service for anyone who finds it hard to buy into the merriment of Christmas, for anyone who wants space, a quiet place of reflection, and for anyone for whom this might be a difficult time of year. All are warmly invited.

Enquiries berenhartless@hotmail.com

SHOTTESWELL LUNCH

Saturday 7th 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



Build imagination with Lego!

Sat 14th Dec, 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 rev.AlisonAbbott@gmail.com



THE BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ

A weekly drop-in group

Mondays 2.00-3.00pm
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

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 lizhostelofson@yahoo.com



PINTS OF VIEW

The White Swan, Kineton
Every Sunday at 7.30pm

Each week we explore a theme or story from the news.



RADWAY'S TEA, CHAT & PLAY

Every Wednesday 3pm-5pm in the Village Hall

All ages are welcome from babies to grandpas!



TEA & CHAT

Friday 26th 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!

