



# The Edgehill Churches

## Parish Link

Loving  
God,  
Serving  
People,  
Growing  
Community

### What's your story?

December 2025/January 2026

If your life were a film, what type/genre of film would it be? Comedy? Action/Adventure? Drama? Thriller? Romance? Disaster? In reality, our lives can be a mix of all genres; there are times when the story we're living through seems darker or impossible, and times when we find hope and joy. Times of tears and times of laughter. Times when we might feel we can conquer the world, and times when we feel we just can't go on.

Our culture tends to encourage each of us to focus on our individual story, where we're the main character, where what we want matters, where our security and our wellbeing are paramount. As we progress through the different chapters of our stories, there are people who support us or hinder us in achieving those goals; people who pick us up when we fail, and others who, deliberately or accidentally, trip us up when we're doing OK. In A.J. Greimas' structural approach to analysing narratives, he refers to these people as 'helpers' and 'opponents'.

However, despite the predominant focus that our society has on the individual, we are also part of other stories...part of the story of our family, our community, our workplace, our sports team, our nation, the whole human race, and even of all creation.

As the 17<sup>th</sup>-century poet, John Donne, wrote, "No man [or woman] is an island, entire of itself; every man [or woman] is a piece of the continent, a part of the main". Our stories are all woven together, and our words and actions have consequences that ripple through the stories of others, impacting their lives for better or worse.

We see our role as 'helper' most clearly for the people who are closest to us. We will sacrificially help the people we love, wanting success for them in their story. And perhaps we see our role as 'opponent' most clearly in the people with whom we strongly disagree, politically or at work, wanting to stop an initiative or movement that we strongly object to. But the reality is that we are always both helper and opponent in all the stories we touch.

There are times when, unintentionally, I've 'tripped up' people that I have been trying to help, times when I've said or done the wrong thing. And there are times when I've inadvertently helped the agenda of someone with whom I disagree. We are all helpers and opponents, all

heroes and villains.

God is also woven into the many stories of our world, and at this time of year, we remember how he was born into the story of humanity in Bethlehem. Jesus came in humility to help us see and understand that greater story of which we are all a part. He came to show us how to be better helpers in the stories around us, and in that overarching story (or metanarrative) of God's love, a story that's woven into all of our stories..

I think we all catch sight of that story at Christmas in the feelings of goodwill and concern we have for others. Insights that move us to want to bless and do our part as helpers in the stories of others.

My prayer for us all this Christmas is that we would be vulnerable enough to receive the love

and help of others (and of God) and that we would clearly see those places where we can be a helper in the stories of others. And I pray that we carry that on into the year ahead.

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](mailto:barry@edgehillchurches.org)**



#### Churches' Contact Details:

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**Benefice Web Site** [www.edgehillchurches.org](http://www.edgehillchurches.org)

## DECEMBER/JANUARY SERVICES IN THE EDGEHILL PARISHES

|          | Kineton                     | Combroke                         | Radway                           | Ratley                  | Warrington                    | Shotteswell                      |
|----------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 7th Dec  | 10.00am<br>Simply Celebrate | 3.00pm<br>Nativity Carol Service | 8.30am<br>Communion              | 10.30am<br>Communion    |                               |                                  |
| 14th Dec | 10.30am<br>Communion        | 9.00am<br>Communion              | 3.00pm<br>Nativity Carol Service |                         | 10.30am<br>Communion          | 4.30pm<br>Nativity Carol Service |
| 21st Dec | 8.30am<br>BCP Comm          | 6.30pm<br>Carol Service          |                                  | 6.30pm<br>Carol Service |                               | 8.30am<br>Communion              |
| 24th Dec | 5.00pm<br>Crib Service      |                                  |                                  | 5.00pm<br>Crib Service  | 6.00pm<br>Carols on the green | 4.00pm<br>Carols round the organ |
|          | 11.00pm<br>Communion        | 11:00pm<br>Communion             |                                  |                         |                               | 11.30pm<br>Communion             |
| 25th Dec | 10.30am<br>Communion        |                                  | 10.30am<br>Communion             | 10.30am<br>Communion    | 9.00am<br>Morning worship     |                                  |
| 28th Dec | 10.30am<br>Benefice Comm    |                                  |                                  | 2.00pm<br>Baptism       |                               |                                  |
| 4th Jan  | 10.00am<br>Simply Celebrate |                                  | 8.30am<br>Communion              | 10.30am<br>Communion    |                               | 8.30am<br>BCP Comm               |
| 11th Jan | 10.30am<br>Communion        | 9.00am<br>Communion              |                                  |                         | 10.30am<br>Communion          |                                  |
| 18th Jan | 10.30am<br>Morning Worship  |                                  | 10.30am<br>Communion             | 6.30pm<br>Communion     |                               | 8.30am<br>Communion              |
| 25th Jan | 10.30am<br>Communion        |                                  |                                  |                         | 10.30am<br>Communion          |                                  |

### SIMPLY CELEBRATE

Sunday 7th Dec & 4th 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

### SHOTTESWELL LUNCH

Saturday 13th 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](mailto:pauline.tarrant@hotmail.co.uk)



### Build imagination with Lego!

Sat 20th Dec, 1:30pm, Warrington 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](mailto:rev.AlisonAbbott@gmail.com)



### PINTS OF VIEW

The White Swan, Kineton  
Every Sunday at 7.30pm

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

### TEA & CHAT

Friday 30th 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!

Edgehill Churches invite you to

# Explore

with  
**Bacon  
Butties**



A practical exploration of the Christian faith

From Saturday 10th January at 9.30am

Explore is a **5 session course** that provides an opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. Multimedia presentations and discussions over breakfast.

Details from [barry@edgehillchurches.org](mailto:barry@edgehillchurches.org)  
or on Eventbrite (see QR code)



### 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 [lizhostelofson@yahoo.com](mailto:lizhostelofson@yahoo.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. More info from Rev Matthew Arnold on

[mtr.arnold@googlemail.com](mailto:mtr.arnold@googlemail.com)