



# The Edgehill Churches

## Parish Link

Loving  
God,  
Serving  
People,  
Growing  
Community

### Unprecedented

February 2026

In the 2020 pandemic, news channels increased their use of the term 'unprecedented' by a whopping 70,830%! And it continues to be used heavily to describe everything from political events to natural disasters to economic shocks and rapid market shifts.

It has moved from a term for historically unique events to an overused catchphrase, often employed to emphasise the severity of 21st-century crises... and there are a lot of crises. Political tensions are higher than they've been for many decades, economic uncertainty is growing, and natural disasters are reaching new levels... there's plenty to concern us, but it is not unprecedented.

The unfortunate reality is that the times we live in are far from unique; political instability, market turmoil, natural disasters, and even pandemics have happened before and will happen again. As we enter 2026, we are not wrong to be concerned about the state of our nation and the world, but how should we respond?

In a complex and unstable world, the multiple concerns we carry can leave us feeling overwhelmed. But many of the things that concern us are well beyond our control, and worrying about them just saps our energy and focus.

The Stoics taught we could live more peaceful and fulfilling lives if we focused our attention and energy on what we could control, rather than on concerns we could do nothing about. They argued that things in our control included our thoughts, emotions, actions and reactions... and let's be honest, we can all have a hard time controlling even those few things!

The Stoics said there are far more things beyond our control: other people's actions and feelings, the weather, the economy, international politics, etc. They taught that dwelling on these things would only lead to unnecessary stress.

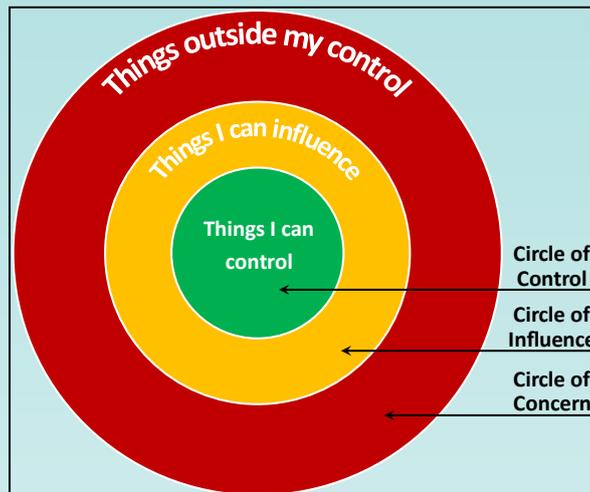
In his book, 'The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People', Steven Covey added a dimension to this: the things we can influence. For example, we can try to reason with people, volunteer to help our community, vote in elections, write to our MP, or join a protest.

There are countless things in our circle of concern that we cannot control or influence, and spending time worrying about them just makes us feel worse.

Covey wrote that 'proactive people' work on the circles

of control and influence; things they can do something about. He said the nature of their energy is positive, enlarging and magnifying. In contrast, he said that 'reactive people' focus on the weaknesses of other people, the problems in the environment, and circumstances where they have no control. He said that their focus leads to blaming and accusatory attitudes, as well as increased feelings of victimisation.

So, when we feel worried and anxious, we need to ask ourselves if we're focusing on things in our circle of concern. If we are, psychologists suggest refocusing on things in our circles of control and influence to help reduce anxiety.



That's great advice... but some of

the concerns we are carrying can seem huge. So, I'd add that it can help to give those concerns to God in prayer. God is not in control, so he's not going to just fix the world's problems. But naming the burdens we carry helps to free our minds... and we know that God's influence is far greater than ours.

That's perhaps what's at the heart of Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6:25-34, where he tells his followers not to worry, but to seek first the kingdom of God.

As we step into 2026, I pray we'll all get better at focusing our efforts on our circles of control and influence, and find freedom in giving God those things in our circle of concern.

Rev Barry Jackson

### Churches' Contact Details:

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## FEBRUARY SERVICES IN THE EDGEHILL PARISHES

	Kineton	Combroke	Radway	Ratley	Warmington	Shotteswell
1st	10.00am Simply Celebrate		8.30am Communion	10.30am Communion		8:30am BCP Comm
8th	10.30am Communion	9:00am Communion			10.30am Communion	
15th	10.30am Morning Worship		10.30am Communion	6.30pm Communion		8.30am Communion
22nd	10.30am Communion				10.30am Communion	

### MIDWEEK COMMUNION

Every Wednesday 12 noon  
at St Peter's Kineton



A said Communion Service. All welcome.

### Charity Pop-Up Board Games Café

Friday 30th January at 7.00pm at  
The Sports and Social club, Kineton



If you love board games, then come and join us for a charity board game evening. Come with a group of

friends, or come along to meet some new ones

Adults and ages 14+ only

**(under 18's must be accompanied by an adult)**

We'll plan to eat at 7 (bring a take away) and start playing at 7.30. more info on the QR code or from Barry at [revbarryjackson@btinternet.com](mailto:revbarryjackson@btinternet.com)



### CONNECT

A life group for 13-18 year olds on Films, video clips, pizza, chill & chat about God, life, the universe and everything.

**Next Meeting: Sunday 1st Feb 6 to 7:30pm**

More details Sarah 07801 303641



### Build imagination with Lego!

Sat 14th Feb, 1:30pm, 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](mailto:rev.AlisonAbbott@gmail.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](mailto:lizhostelofson@yahoo.com)



### TEA & CHAT

Friday 27th 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!



# 10:10

A YOUTH GROUP FOR  
9-11 YEAR OLDS

Sun 8th Feb, 5.30-7.00pm

10:10 is a monthly youth group for years 5-7.

We meet at the church in Kineton for pizza, games and chat about God, life, the universe and everything.

**Registration essential**

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



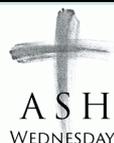
### SIMPLY CELEBRATE

Sunday 1st 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



### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Wednesday 18th February

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



St Peter's invite you to join us for a

## SUNDAY SCHOOL WITH LEGO CHURCH

at Kineton Primary School

on **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15th** from 10:15-11:30

For children and adults of any age

**(Children coming without an adult need to be registered beforehand)**

Details from Liz at [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. More info from Rev Matthew Arnold on

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

