



# The Edgehill Churches

## Parish Link

*Loving  
God,  
Serving  
People,  
Growing  
Community*

**Christmas and Climate Change**

**December 2017/January 2018**

At this time of year, we often think about carols, a number of which indicate that the Christmas story of the birth of Jesus Christ took place in winter, for example, 'In the bleak midwinter', or 'See, amid the winter's snow', or 'Good King Wenceslas', who, with his servant, went out in deep snow to bring help to the poor.

The reality is probably that while the birth of Christ is celebrated in midwinter in the UK, in the Holy Land, with a Mediterranean climate, in the early 1<sup>st</sup> century, the weather is likely to have been much milder, and in the summer, it would have been even warmer. Because we don't actually know what time of the year Jesus was born.

Warm winter temperatures are beginning to be a feature of the weather in our own country in recent years, with heavy rain being more usual in winter than deep snow, though this winter, extreme weather could be possible. With the expected rise in global temperatures over the next decades already reaching the anticipated 1.5 degrees centigrade, and very likely rising to 5 degrees more, perhaps the old carol might be better named 'In the mild midwinter'. The sad truth is that these are average temperature increases across the globe; in some countries, such as Spain and Portugal, local temperature increases are already much greater, giving rise to frequent widespread wildfires and periods of drought.

Climate change isn't just a gentle warming up of the earth's atmosphere - there's also the issue of rising sea levels, as the polar ice caps melt. The impact on low-lying island nations such as Kiribati, the birthplace of my cousin's wife Tsareti, is already significant. Its inhabitants are losing their fresh water supplies, and much of the land can no longer be used for growing giant taro, one of the chief food crops.

Then there is the worrying matter of increasing carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, not to mention high levels of particulates polluting the air of our

cities, river pollution, land degradation etc., as the human population of our world reaches unsustainable levels. It hasn't helped that President Trump has refused to allow the USA to sign up to the 2016 Paris Agreement on climate change, though several US states have defied him and signed up anyway.



And that's despite some extreme weather this year in the States, with hurricanes and wildfires causing untold damage.

Whilst all this may seem to be something governments should deal with, we can all do our part to 'tread lightly on our world, like angels', by doing simple things like choosing Christmas wrapping paper

which is recyclable, and turning off lights when we are not in the room. Or we can take bigger actions such as changing electricity supplier to one using renewables, or only use the car when necessary within our villages. Ensuring our children and theirs will have a world to live in, without harsh, changing weather patterns, water or food shortages, could be the best Christmas present we could give them for their future. Each of us can make a contribution, no matter how small.

*Beren Hartless and Katie Hartless Rose*

## *Merry Christmas!*

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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	Warmington	Shotteswell
3rd Dec	8.30am BCP Comm	10.00am Simply Celebrate		8.30am Communion	10.30am Communion		8.30am BCP Comm
10th Dec		10.30am Communion	9.00am Communion	3pm Christingle Carol Service	5.40pm Compline	10.30am Communion	8.30am Communion
17th Dec	8.30am BCP Comm	6.30pm Carol Service	4.30pm Carols Service	10:30am Communion	6.30pm Carol Service	10.30am Carol Service	4.30pm Christingle Carol Service
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec		5:00pm Crib Service			5:00pm Crib Service	5:30pm Carols on the green	4:00pm Carols round the organ
		11:00pm Communion	11:00pm Communion		11:30pm Communion		11:30pm Communion
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec		10:30am Communion		10:30am Communion		10:30 Communion	
31st Dec		10.30am Communion					
7th Jan	8.30am BCP Comm	10.00am Simply Celebrate		8.30am Communion	10.30am Communion		8.30am BCP Comm
14th Jan		10.30am Communion	9.00am Communion		5.40pm Compline	10.30am Communion	8.30am Communion
21st Jan	8.30am BCP Comm	10.30am Morning Worship			6.30pm Communion	10.30am Communion	8.30am Communion
28th Jan		10.30am Communion		10.30am Communion	6:30pm Evensong	10.30am Communion	8.30am Communion



**MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICE**  
**Thursday 7th December at 11am and**  
**Thursday 4th January at 11am**  
 at St Peter's Church, Kineton  
 With traditional hymns played on the organ.

**SHOTTESWELL LUNCH**  
**Saturday 2nd December 12.30pm**  
 Shotteswell Village Hall

Come and join us for good company over a light lunch.  
 Details from Pauline Tarrant 01295 730687

**SIMPLY CELEBRATE**

**Sunday 3rd December**  
**10am St Peter's Kineton**



Come for **breakfast** to begin the service.  
 A time with God for everyone, with drama, puppets, activities, fun, songs and more. A time with God for everyone, with drama, puppets, activities, fun, songs and more.

**CONNECT**

**A group for 12-15 year olds**  
**Sunday 3rd December from**  
**6 to 7:30pm at the Vicarage**



Films, video clips, pizza, chill & chat about God, life, the universe and everything.

**Christmas Meet & Eat**

**Tuesday 5th December 12 'til 2pm**  
**in Kineton Village Hall**

More info: Diana 07749 599211 or Chris 01926 640904



**THRIVE**

A group for young people from  
 9-12 years old

**Meeting on Sunday 3rd Dec & 21st Jan**  
**from 6:00-7.30pm at St Peters Church, Kineton**

Have fun with friends and learn more about God!  
 Contact Tanita [tanita@edgehillchurches.org](mailto:tanita@edgehillchurches.org) or 07707 926978, or Eira on 07837 064081, [eirahale@gmail.com](mailto:eirahale@gmail.com)



**CHURCH IN THE PUB**

**Rose & Crown, Ratley Sunday 10th Dec 6pm**  
**and Sunday 14th Jan at 6pm**  
**Plough, Warmington Sunday 28th Jan at 4.30pm**  
 Each month we explore a theme or story from the news as part of our service

**TYSOE PANTIVITY Saturday 16th December**

**Bringing the story alive with real animals, in a real stable and YOU!!**



**4:00pm** at Tysoe Methodists to make a hat or costume  
**4.45pm** for the **Pantivity** at The stables, The farm, Back Lane, Tysoe

**All welcome. Bring a torch.**



**Sunday 21st January at 4pm,**  
**at Kineton Primary School**

Crafts, games, activities and fun for all the family plus a hot meal together.

More info from Tanita on [tanita@edgehillchurches.org](mailto:tanita@edgehillchurches.org) or 07707 926978