



# The Edgehill Churches

## Parish Link

Loving  
God,  
Serving  
People,  
Growing  
Community

### Where are we going?

December 2018/January 2019

Another Christmas is almost upon us. Another year is almost over. After the focus around Halloween, then Bonfire Night, then Remembrance, we shift our attention to the Christmas season. Then it will be the new year celebrations, then Valentine's Day, then Mother's Day, then Easter, then school/village fetes, then summer holidays... In the midst of this annual cycle of events we also have personal and family birthdays and anniversaries; times of great celebration, and times of sadness and grief.

Sometimes the years seem to fly by with one event, or festival after another. At other times they seem to drag on for ever. Some years can feel like an endless stream of events where nothing has changed. In other years our whole world may have been changed due to a new job, or a new home, or a birth, or a marriage, or a death, or some other reason for joy or grief.

The end of one year and the beginning of another is a great time to pause and reflect. However, in the endless stream of events and activities, it's rare that we make time to do that. I wonder if we sometimes surround ourselves with activities and noise, so that we can avoid asking those big questions; Where have I come from, and where am I going?

Some questions that can help us look back are:

- What things have pleased me most in this last year?
- What are the most valuable lessons I have learned?
- Who are the people that have influenced me most?
- When and how have I grown in the last year?

Looking forward, the questions we most often ask ourselves are, 'What do I want to achieve in this next year?', or 'What do I want to get done?' However, I think the more important questions to ask ourselves are, '**Who do I want to become in the next season of my life?**', and 'What do I need to prioritise if I am to make progress on that?'

For example:

- If I want to become better at my job, or change it, I might need to commit to a training course;
- If I want to be a better parent or spouse, I might need to block out some time in my weekly schedule to be with my children or partner;
- If I want to be healthier, then I might need to commit to getting to bed earlier, changing my diet or putting time for regular exercise into my schedule.

The truth is that it **is not** an endless cycle of events; through it all we change and grow, and each year we come back to the next birthday, or the next festival/event a different person than the year before. Sometimes that change is accidental, driven by the events

around us, but pausing and asking questions like those above can help us to be **more intentional** about who we want to become in this next year.

About 2000 years ago Jesus stepped into the annual cycle of events in our world and brought a change that has echoed through history. Frederick Buechner wrote:

*It is impossible to conceive how different things would have turned out if that birth had not happened whenever, wherever, however it did ... for millions of people who have lived since, the birth of Jesus made possible not just a new way of understanding life, but a new way of living it. It is a truth that, for twenty centuries, there have been untold numbers of men and women who, in untold numbers of ways, have been so grasped by the child who was born, so caught up in the message he taught and the life he lived, that they have found themselves profoundly changed by their relationship with him.*

I pray that you will make the time this Christmas to pause and ask some of those big questions of life. And I pray that this next year will be significant for you in becoming more of the person you want to be.

Rev Barry Jackson

## Merry Christmas!

### 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	Warmington	Shotteswell
2nd Dec	8.30am BCP Comm	10.00am Simply Celebrate		8.30am Communion	10.30am Communion		8:30am BCP Comm
9th Dec		10.30am Communion	9.00am Communion	3pm Christingle Carol Service	5.40pm Compline	10.30am Communion	8.30am Communion
16th Dec	8.30am BCP Comm	6.30pm Carol Service	4.30pm Carol Service	10:30am Communion	6.30pm Carol Service	10.30am Carol Service	4.30pm Christingle Carol Service
23rd Dec		10.30am Communion					8.30am Communion
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
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec		10:30am Communion		10:30am Communion	10:30am Communion	10:30am Communion	
30th Dec		10.30am Communion					
6th Jan	8.30am BCP Comm	10.00am Simply Celebrate		8.30am Communion	10.30am Communion		8:30am BCP Comm
13th Jan		10.30am Communion	9.00am Communion		5.40pm Compline	10.30am Communion	8.30am Communion
20th Jan	8.30am BCP Comm	10.30am Morning Worship			6.30pm Communion	10.30am Communion	8.30am Communion
27th Jan		10.30am Communion		10.30am Communion	6:30pm Evensong	10.30am Communion	8.30am Communion



**MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICE**  
**Thursday 6th December at 11am and**  
**Thursday 3rd January at 11am**  
 at St Peter's Church, Kineton  
 With traditional hymns played on the organ.

### SHOTTESWELL LUNCH

**Saturday 1st 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 2nd 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.

## BUMPKINS

**BABY AND TODDLER GROUP**  
**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December,**  
**Radway Village Hall, 2-3pm.**  
 Everyone welcome



## Christmas Meet & Eat

**Tuesday 4th December 12 'til 2pm**  
**in Kineton Village Hall**

More info: Diana 07749 599211 or Chris 01926 640904

## TEA & CHAT

**Friday 7th Dec 3pm-4.30pm**  
**in Ratley Village Hall**

As the days get shorter, and colder, come out 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!



### PINTS OF VIEW

**Rose & Crown, Ratley**

**Sunday 9th Dec & Sun 13th Jan at 6pm**

Whatever your *pint of choice*, come & share your *point of view*. Each month we explore a theme or

### TYSOE PANTIVITY Saturday 15th 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.**

## Winter Olympics! **Sweaty**

**Sunday 20th January at 4pm,**  
**at Kineton Primary School**

Games, challenges, activities and fun for all the family plus a hot meal together.

More info from Contact Bez on 01926 640466 or  
 simplystpeters@gmail.com