



The Edgehill Churches

Parish Link

Loving
God,
Serving
People,
Growing
Community

I give up!

February 2018

Not to brag, but I'm really good at hobbies. That doesn't mean I'm great at all the hobbies I take up... just at pursuing hobbies. It's possibly because hobbies combine some of my favourite things, learning new stuff, buying new stuff and a relentless desire to improve myself! So, I'm really good at taking things up and also quite enthusiastic about giving things up too – if I think it will lead to something good or better. This means that the New Year brings excitement and Lent offers a chance to try again!

My New Year's resolution this year was not to be late quite so much. The 'quite so much' was added at the end of the first week when I had been late twice - although in my defence I think one occasion was not my fault!

And now Ash Wednesday is on the horizon, and my thoughts have turned to what I might give up.

Chocolate and biscuits, staying up late, spending too much time in front of screens, buying too much new stuff? - these are just some of the things which would probably benefit me and possibly others.

But why do we give things up for Lent?

In fact, why do we give things up at all?

In primitive cultures, where there were very few things to give up, food was the most likely option. A fast was often demanded before going to war, or as part of a coming-of-age ritual or an attempt to avoid catastrophes such as famine. So, it seems that giving things up was traditionally focussed on food and this is certainly the case in the Early Church.

Giving things up for Lent has its origins in the fasting which took place in preparation for baptism. At one stage in the early Church those wishing to become Christians often underwent lengthy preparation which ended with a 40-day period of prayer and fasting before their baptism at Easter, don't worry we have a slightly less demanding approach to baptism now! This reflected the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before his ministry began, a time to really consider the big questions of life without other demands and distractions crowding in.

So, the early Christians did the same, they fasted and this fasting wasn't giving up luxury items like chocolate or prosecco, cheese or beer, but rather ate just one meal a day and gave up all meat, fish and animal products for 6 days of each week. And it wasn't to lose weight or become physically healthier but a desire to give full and proper attention to the important questions in life.

In a culture and age which likes to make snappy decisions, do things right now and have immediate gratification how

often do we put aside time to ask ourselves what matters in life?

Many people say they feel that their lives are over busy, over full and full of distractions. There is rarely time of quiet or stillness. Every moment of every day can, if we wish, be crammed with all kinds of stuff. There's always something to watch on the TV, a new activity to join in with, another meeting to go to, an email to answer or a status to update or a new hobby to take up!

And lots of it is pleasurable and fun but what if it squashes other things out? When do we then have the chance to think about life, about what we are putting our time and energy into, about what we hope for, about what impact we want to have, what we want to leave behind, about what really matters to us, to those we love, to God?

What many people seem to crave is the opportunity to slow down a bit, to have some space and the opportunity to think

and take stock. Perhaps Lent might be a chance to do that and to explore some of those big questions. If that is something which interests you, then perhaps you would like to join in with our chocolate focussed Lent groups

We will be using the film 'Chocolat' as a starting point to explore issues about God, the world and what it means to be human. Quite big stuff, so don't give up chocolate – we'll need it to keep us going!

And I'm going to try chair time – the discipline of sitting down for 15 minutes each day and reflecting on what has been going on in life and what is coming up. Where you have been and where you are going. 15 minutes to pause, take a breath and wait on God. I'm going to give it a go, although it might make me late for a few things!

Rev Alex Williams
Curate

*PS Apologies to the editor for my article being late
– it was the internet's fault*



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Benefice Web Site www.edgehillchurches.org

FEBRUARY SERVICES IN THE EDGEHILL CHURCHES

	Kineton		Combroke	Radway	Ratley	Warmington	Shotteswell
4 th	8.30am BCP Comm	10.00am Simply Celebrate		8.30am Communion	10.30am Communion		8:30am BCP Comm
11 th		10.30am Communion	9.00am Communion		5.40pm Compline	10.30am Communion	8.30am Communion
18 th	8.30am BCP Comm	10.30am Morning Worship with CAP		10.30am Morning Worship	6.30pm Communion	10.30am Communion	8.30am Communion
25 th		10.30am Communion			6.30pm Evensong	4.30pm Church in the Plough	8.30am Communion



MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICE

Thursday 1st February at 11am
at St Peter's Church, Kineton
With traditional hymns played on the organ.

SHOTTESWELL LUNCH

Saturday 3rd February 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 4th February
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 4th February from
6 to 7:30pm at the Vicarage



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

Meet & Eat

Tuesday 6th February 12 'til 2pm
in Kineton Village Hall

More info: Diana 07749 599211 or Chris 01926 640904



CHURCH IN THE PUB

Rose & Crown, Ratley Sunday 11th Feb 6pm
Plough, Warmington Sunday 25th Feb at 4.30pm
Each month we explore a theme or story from the news as part of our service

MEDITATION SERVICE

Sunday 25th February at 6pm
St Peter's Kineton

Exploring ways of knowing God through contemplative prayer



ONE TASTE IS ALL IT TAKES

From 12th Feb for 6 weeks
Join us for a Lent course as we explore some key themes from the film *'Chocolat'* (starring Juliette Binoche, Jonny Depp and Judy Dench)

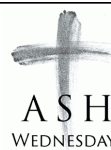
Each week will include a **chocolate tasting**, so if you are planning to give something up for lent, don't make it chocolate :-)

We hope you can join us.

There will be 8 or 9 groups running the course across the area, some daytime and some evening

For the details of the one nearest you contact

Pete on **01926 640981**



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Wednesday 14th February

10:30am with Communion at Warmington Church

7:30pm with Evening Prayer at Kineton Church



Sunday 18th February at 4pm,
at Kineton Primary School

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

More info from Sarah: Sarah.Jackson05@hotmail.co.uk or 01926 640248



THRIVE

A group for young people from 9-12 years old

Meeting on Sunday 18th February

from 6:00-7.30pm at St Peters Church, Kineton

Have fun with friends and learn more about God!

Contact Tanita tanita@edgehillchurches.org or 07707 926978, or Eira on 07837 064081, eirahale@gmail.com



Wednesdays from 9-10.30am in
Kineton Methodist Church Hall



A time of singing, stories and fun for parents and children aged 0-preschool.