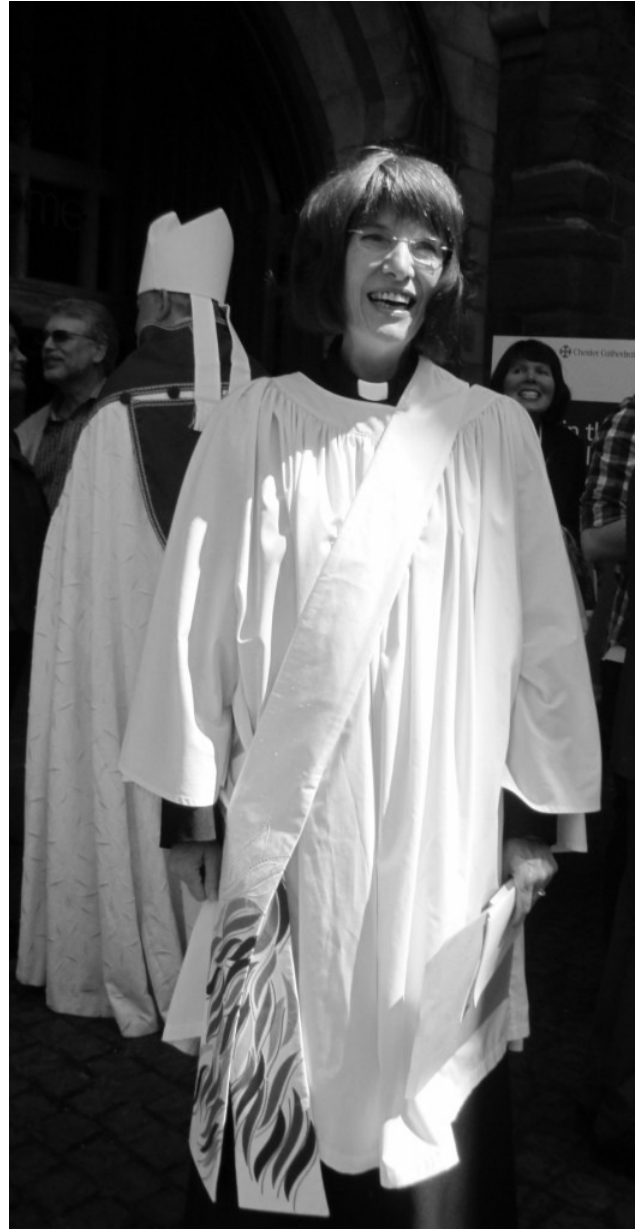
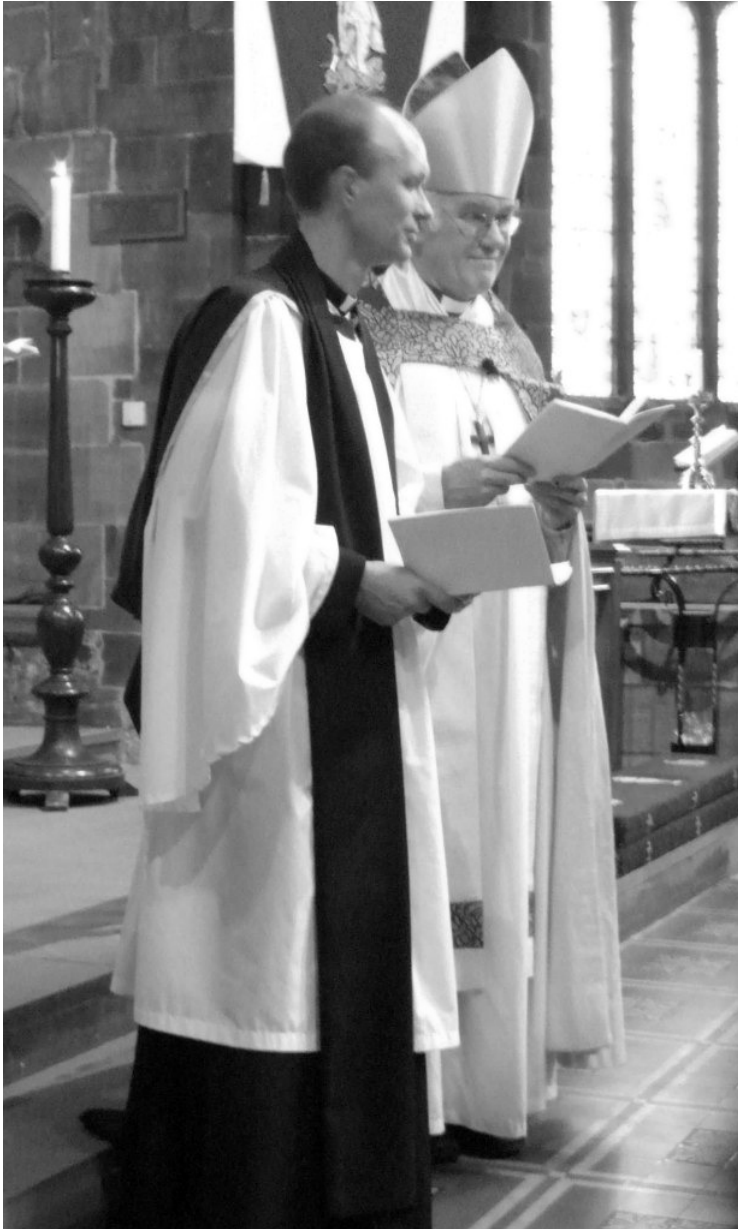


The Messenger

Parish Magazine of
St Michael and All Angels, Middlewich
with St John the Evangelist, Byley



Simon's collation and Lorraine's Ordination

August 2011

50p

Service plan for August 2011

7th August– 7th Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am	Middlewich	Communion
9.15 am	Middlewich	Communion
11. am	Middlewich	All Age Communion
11. am	Byley	Morning Prayer (Lammas)
6.30 pm	Middlewich	Evening Service Cancelled

14th August– 8th Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am	Middlewich	No Communion
9.15 am	Middlewich	Communion
11. am	Middlewich	Morning Prayer with Children
11. am	Byley	Communion
6.30 pm	Middlewich	Evensong Cancelled

21st August– 9th Sunday after Trinity

Holiday Club Week

8.00 am	Middlewich	No Communion
9.15 am	Middlewich	Communion
11. am	Middlewich	Morning Prayer with Children
11. am	Byley	Morning Praise
6.30 pm	Middlewich	Evening Praise Cancelled

Tuesday 23rd August– No Healing Service

Don't forget to check out the new website...www.at28.org

28th August– 10th Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am	Middlewich	No Communion
9.15 am	Middlewich	Communion
11. am	Middlewich	No Service (Holiday Club Service at MCC)
11. am	Byley	Communion
2.30 pm	Middlewich	Baptism
6.30 pm	Middlewich	Evening Praise Cancelled

There is also a communion service each Thursday at 9.30 am

And a healing service each Tuesday at 9.30 am (unless otherwise stated.)

A letter from the 'new' Rector

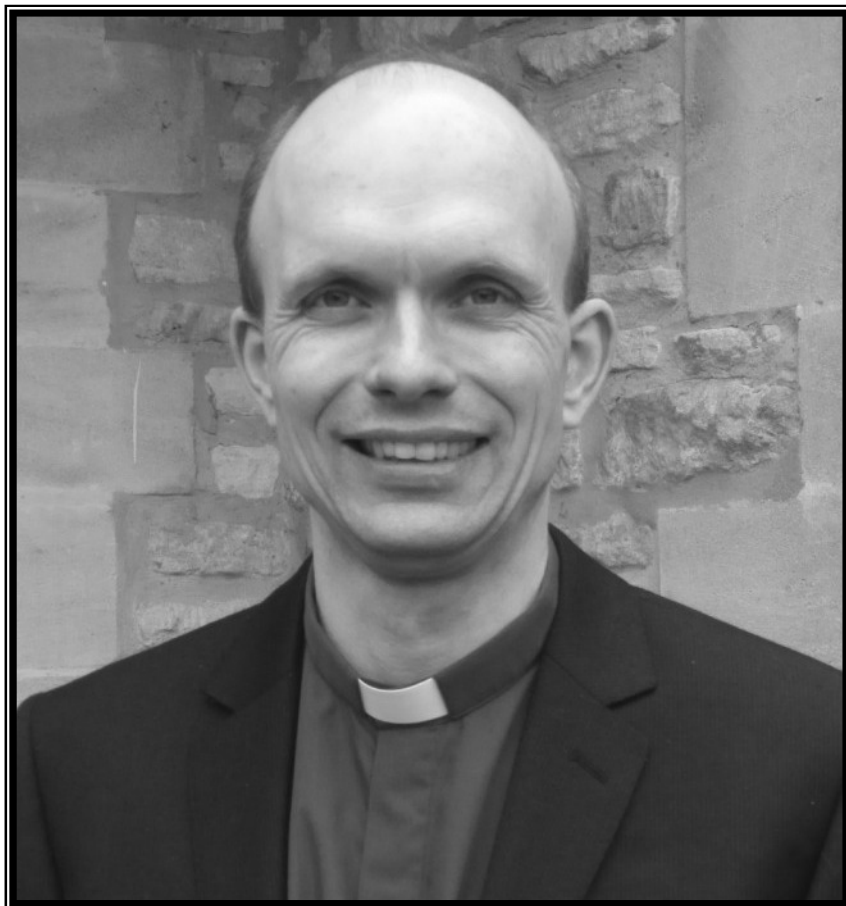
May I begin with this quote from Indira Gandhi:

My Grandfather once told me that there are two kinds of people:

those who do the work and those who take the credit.

He told me to try and be in the first group; there was less competition there.

Unwittingly I have found myself in the second group! In the first few weeks of life in Chester Diocese I have had the privilege of attending various diocesan events. When I have introduced myself as the new Rector at Middlewich & Byley I have been congratulated – you've got a good team ... a great



set-up ... a growing church. Yes I have – but

– others have done the hard work. So I want to put on record my thanks to all those who have worked so hard during the recent years to make St Michael's Church, and Byley Church the vibrant places of worship they are today. I am honoured to take on the role of Rector and only hope I am worthy of the reputation these parishes have in the wider Diocese.

Some people have been asking – what will you change? The answer is, at the moment, nothing. But in the longer term only God knows – our task, yours and mine, is to find out what God wants for these parishes.

This tension between holding onto the existing but looking forward into the future (the old & the new) finds a parallel in Jesus Christ himself.

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them (Matthew 5:17)

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another (John 13:34)

Jesus' coming into the world was radically new – yet it was also a continuation and fulfilment of the story of God's dealings with Israel. There was change and continuity, freshness and fulfilment. So Jesus lived as a Jew, he taught from the OT scriptures, he attended worship in both the temple and the synagogue – he valued the Jewish faith. But at the same time he brought in a new era of the Kingdom of God, called & trained disciples who then went on to establish the church and change the world with the Gospel.

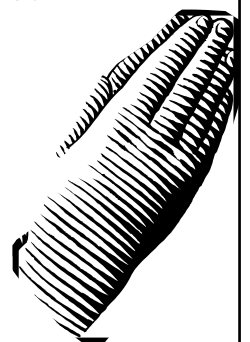
So can we hold the two in tension as well? Can we value what is, and also look forward to what is to come? I hope and pray that we can. Once again may I thank you for inviting me to become your Rector. God knows what the future holds – so let's go with Him and find out!

Simon Drew

There is always someone available to pray with you after services.

**Just ask.
It's good to pray!**

**Equally, if you would like someone to come and pray with you at any time speak to :
Sylvia, Elaine or Sue Ikin.**



Entrance Exam

The day finally arrives:

Forrest Gump dies and goes to heaven. He walks up to the pearly gates and is met by St. Peter himself.

The good saint says, "Well, Forrest, we're glad to see you. We've heard a lot about you. I must let you know however, that the place is filling up fast, so we've been giving an entrance exam to everyone.

The test is short, but you have to pass before you can get into heaven. You need to answer these three questions:

- 1) What days of the week begin with the letter "T"?
- 2) How many seconds are there in a year?
- 3) What is God's first name?"

Forrest says, "Well, the first one, - that's an easy one. There are two of them, Today and Tomorrow."

The saint's eyes open wide in surprise: "Forrest, that's not what I was thinking, but....I'll give you the credit for that answer. How about the second question?"

"Now that one's harder," says Forrest, "but I'll guess the answer to be twelve."

Astounded, St Peter says, "*twelve? Twelve?* Forrest, how could you come up with twelve seconds a year?"

"Shucks, there's gotta be twelve" Forrest answers, "January 2nd,

February 2nd, March 2nd and so on.”

“Hold it,” interrupts St Peter. “I see where you’re going with this, and I’ll have to give you credit for that one too. Let’s go on to the final question. Can you tell me God’s first name?”

‘
Sure, “Forrest replies, ‘it’s Andy.”

“**Andy**” exclaims the exasperated and frustrated saint. “Ok, I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you come up with the name of ANDY as the first name of God?.”

“Oh,” Forrest replies, “that was the easiest one of all: ANDY WALKS WITH ME, ANDY TALKS WITH ME, ANDY TELLS ME I AM HIS OWN.”

St Peter opens the pearly gates and says, “**run, Forrest, run!**”

**Unless the Lord
Builds the house, its
Builders labour in
Vain.**

(Psalm 127:1)

**So don’t forget to
Pray!**

Lorraine's Ordination

On Sunday 3rd July, Lorraine Reed was ordained as deacon in Chester Cathedral.

A large contingent of Middlewich and Byley folk were there to support Lorraine. They arrived early and thus acquired seats at the rear of the centre portion of the cathedral. This was an excellent vantage point from which to see the procession, including our new rector, Simon, our curate, Liz, and bishops and archdeacons in their ceremonial robes.

Thia enjoyed the occasion from her position in the congregation, and was able to relive her own ordination.

Lorraine was very nervous, but appeared calm and dignified. The whole service was very moving, and the congregation felt very much a part of it.

Afterwards there was a 'photo opportunity' at the West door. As you can see (see front cover), Lorraine had relaxed, and was glowing.

Following the service, most of us joined Lorraine and her family for a celebratory meal at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Chester, where we were joined by Thia's husband (after his morning service) and Steve Broadfoot, who had volunteered to stay behind in Middlewich to conduct the service there (thank you Steve).

Before the meal, the guests were entertained by the recorder group in which Lorraine plays— and they were really good! Some of the recorders were very long and must have been quite difficult to hold.

Eventually they had to stop playing because they could no longer be heard. They were given a resounding round of applause. The music was very much appreciated, but everyone had so much to say, greeting colleagues like the Reverend Gill Stanning, and discussing the amazing service.

Simon said grace, and we all demolished a delicious meal.

After the meal, the Venerable Ian Bishop treated us all to some secrets about our newly ordained curate; her preference for junk food and bargain shops, for example.



Lorraine's Recorder Group



Some younger guests preferred to draw!

Lorraine took the stage with her proud family, and thanked everyone for sharing the day with her, a truly special occasion for everyone.

Margaret English



Grateful thanks to Steve Broadfoot for the photos!

Volunteers for Number 28 drop-in

Due to new jobs and other commitments, we have recently lost some of our regular volunteers. Please consider if you could help for just 4 hours a month. We particularly need extra helpers on Tuesdays to serve the soup. This is proving very successful, and is raising money for the church and other charities.

If you can help, please speak to Pat.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

I am delighted to report that a cheque for £1,500 will be sent to Save the Family. It's an amazing amount and has already been ear-marked by Chris Walton, the Manager of Cotton Hall, to furnish the bathrooms in the new cottages with towels, toiletries etc. Our fundraising totalled £418.59 and the PCC generously donated the balance. A massive thank you to everyone who put in such tremendous efforts.

Latest: On Sunday 17 July, Janet Chisholm gave me two further amounts of money; a cheque for £53.00 for Save the Family and a cash amount of £51.00 for MU projects, which she raised through the outing to see "Joseph". Thank you and very well done Janet. We have been truly blessed with our fundraising this year.

Future events:

Tuesday, 9 August

Annual outing: We will be visiting All Saints Church Daresbury to view the Lewis Carroll Memorial Windows. The stained glass windows, dedicated in 1935, depict the characters from "Alice in Wonderland". We will leave Middlewich around 10.30am and will have a guided tour of the church. Coffee and biscuits on arrival - £3. On the return journey we will call in at Weaver Vale Garden Centre for refreshments. There is also a very good craft centre on site. Please let Pam know if you would like to visit Daresbury, tel: 832286.

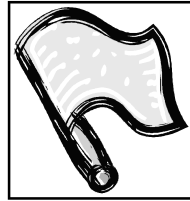
Tuesday, 13 September

Monthly meeting with lunch at 12.30pm in Number 28. Our guest speaker is Mrs P. Woodrow at 1.30pm, with a presentation entitled "Children of a Lesser God".

Tuesday, 11 October

A Hot Pot Lunch at Number 28. Offers of help would be appreciated.

Mothers Union Sunday Rota



Duty	August	September
Intercessions	Jacqui Briscoe	Susan Hawkes
Banner	Angela Tempest	Jo Hulse
Escorts	Pauline Ashley & Thelma Ashley	Janet Chisholm & Chris Overton
Offertory	Pauline Davies & Merle Ikin	Jo Wilson & Miriam Sant

Mission: Rescue– Summer Holiday Club

22nd-26th August 2011

Booking forms now available at the back of church or in Number 28.

Theme: “Mission Rescue” spy theme based on exodus.

Volunteers still needed– please speak to Jeremy.

Please turn the lights off!

PLEASE NOTE IT COSTS MORE THAN £2000 PER WEEK TO RUN ST MICHAEL’S!!!

Energy is a huge part of that cost so please - Don't waste it.

The Normal week at St Michael's

Monday	9.00 am	Staff Meeting at Number 28
	1.30 pm	SMILERS at church (not during school holidays)
	7.30 pm	SMAART St Michael's handbell ringers
	7.00 pm	Rehearsals for the Festival Choir in Church from September
Tuesday	9.30 am	Healing service and coffee at Number 28
	7.30 pm	Tower ringing practice in church
Wednesday	7.00 am	Prayer in church
	9.15 am	Prayer in church
	6.00 pm	Music group practice
	7.30 pm	Choir practice (not during August)
Thursday	9.30 am	Communion
	7.30 pm	Card Group at Number 28
Friday	9.15 am	Prayer in church
	6.00 pm	BLOG (Club for Years 4, 5 and 6) not during school holidays
	7.30 pm	DYN@MIC (Club for Years 7, 8, 9) not during school holidays

Baptism Preparation

6th September

There will be a meeting in church, starting at 8pm

For more information, speak to Sylvia or Elaine.

Elaine Reynolds
01606 832596
elaine@reynolds127.fsnet.co.uk

Sylvia Bosomworth
01606 737338
sylviabosomworth@btinternet.com



To My Bay Tree
By Simon Hamill– Stewart

Bay tree, you were my pride and joy,
Lovely to look at,
Grist for my cooking pot.
But the frost came down
And the leaves turned brown,
And yet you live,
Deep in root
With strong sap rising?

Looking at you I saw my withered self,
Dying it seemed my soul;
And yet within
Root of my being,
Life of my life,
Hope in my dying,
Jesus.

Jesus upon another tree you hung,
By our cold cruelty once crucified,
And yet not gone,
But in God's spring
At Eastertide returning,
To give new life
To our frost bitten souls.

(Simon's bay tree was apparently killed in the harsh winter of 2009/2010. It was cut down to the stump, and is still growing.)

If you would like to read more of Simon's poems, a selection (religious and secular, witty and serious) are published in *Poems for No. 28*, costing just £1.00.

Simon's Welcome

Our new rector, the Reverend Simon Drew, was officially installed on 1st July at the beginning of a momentous weekend.

The collation service involved lots of processing around the church, with symbolic actions at each stage. It was lovely to see water poured into the old font, and Simon rang the bidding bell most efficiently. A moment from the service is captured on the front cover.

Sunday 3rd saw Simon at Chester Cathedral taking part in Lorraine's ordination. We all hurried back to Middlewich wondering about the evening service, described as *Simon's Welcome*.

We need not have worried. In a short but lively service, Simon explained how Jesus is the beginning, the end, and in the centre of everything. He achieved this with the help of some of the younger members of the congregation, a length of piping insulation and a palm cross!



At the beginning of the service, we had all been issued with balloons by Simon's daughters. We blew these up with a prayer inside, and the whole church played 'keepie uppy' with their prayers. Thank you Simon.

Margaret English

All Saints Church, Alrewas



Alrewas is a picturesque village by the Trent and Mersey Canal in Staffordshire. This poster was beside the lock in the centre of the village. Perhaps a similar poster canalside in Middlewich might alert boaters to the delights of Number 28!

Parish Registers for 2011

Baptisms

22nd May	Maisie Munroe
	Isla Grace Webb
	Harrison Jack Knight
	Thomas James Woods
10th July	Kaitlyn Paige Harris
	Maisie Sophie Nixon

Weddings

9th July	David Chappell and Jennifer Woods
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Funerals

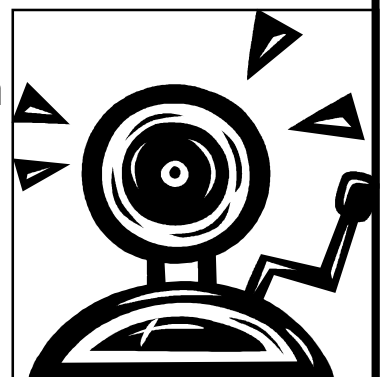
30th June	Diane Sant	Rolt Crescent
8th July	Fred Arrowsmith	Hubert Drive
13th July	Brian Fox	Hayhurst Avenue
19th July	Brenda Lightfoot	Hubert Drive

Number 28 Key Holders

Do you hold a key for Number 28? If so, do you know how to set and cancel the intruder alarm?

If not, please will you speak to Pat!

The alarm needs to be set when the building is empty in order to comply with the church's insurance policy.



Choral Festival at St Asaph, July 2nd

There were twelve of us from the choirs of St Michael's who set out for this year's Choral Festival at St Asaph. Instead of Pentecost Sunday, this year the festival was on a Saturday, no doubt to avoid the complications of half term.

Unfortunately, numbers were disappointing. Apart from ourselves only two other parishes were represented, and in all only about 40 singers attended, but we were joined by the cathedral choir, and the resulting choral sound was very pleasing. Our conductor for the day was the cathedral organist, Alan McGuinness.

This year the music for the festival took on a very different format. Instead of the usual Evensong, it was a service to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. The music was interspersed with first some history – mentioning Wyclif, Tyndale and Coverdale – and then bible readings - one in the original Greek – “In the beginning was the Word”, from St John's Gospel.

The music, too, was significantly different and rather simpler. There were more hymns than usual – some familiar such as “Thou whose almighty word”, some not so well-known such as “Not far beyond the sea, nor high”. There was a section of Psalm 119, sung to a most unusual chant, a Taize chant “In the Lord I'll ever be thankful”, and two anthems -Attwood, “Teach me O Lord the way of thy statutes”, and a rousing chorus from the Messiah – “And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed”, which we sang enthusiastically and with full voice, making the cathedral rafters ring.

Altogether it was an enjoyable and satisfying musical occasion.

Sylvia Bailey





We presented Bruce Gleave with a framed certificate in appreciation of his twenty-five years service as church warden of Byley.

Celia Wilkinson

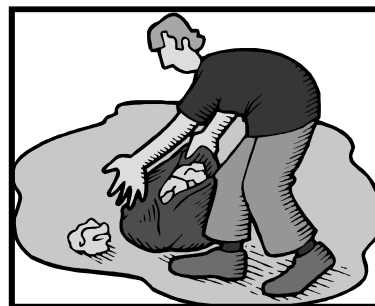
Byley Notices

Whist Drive Dates

23rd August : 6th September
7.30pm in the Village Hall

Cleaning Rota

August 14th– 21st	C. Hankey
August 28th– September 4th	P. Bennion



Church Yard Waste Bins

Our bins have been removed. Would you please take home all your rubbish when you visit the church yard.

Byley in August 2011

7th August	Morning Praise Cleaning Sidesman	Steve Broadfoot Frank Walton
14th August	Communion Cleaning Sidesman	Simon Drew C. Hankey Eleanor Winnett
21st August	Morning Praise Cleaning Sidesman	Tony Woode C. Hankey Celia Wilkinson
28th August	Communion Cleaning Sidesman	Simon Hamill-Srewart P. Bennion Glenys Richardson

Byley PCC

There will be a meeting of Byley PCC on MONDAY 1st August, venue to be confirmed, at 7-30pm. There will be a short "business" meeting to be followed by informal get together to give Simon a chance to meet Members, hopefully over a cup of tea.

Simon's First Evensong

On Sunday 10th July there was a service of Evensong conducted by the new Rector, Simon.. This was a well attended service and we at Byley appreciated the support of members from St. Michaels, especially the Choir.

Bruce Gleave

The opportunity was taken during the Service to give a Certificate of Appreciation to Bruce Gleave who had recently retired after 25years service. Fortunately Bruce is still around to give help and advice and no doubt he will be called on for sometime to give us all the benefit of his experience which he has built up during the years.

Middlewich and Byley Church Staff

Rev Simon Drew, Rector– Middlewich and Byley	01606 738005
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Ruth Broadfoot, Electoral Roll & Bookstall Manager	
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Byley Church Warden and treasurer**

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01606 833808

Christine Hankey, Byley Village Hall

Chestnut Farm, Byley

01606 832938

And Finally.....

***“Earth is innocent. Only the use we make of it mars it.”
from Ellis Peters — The Potter’s Field.***

If you have any articles or photographs for the next magazine, please would you e-mail them by 15th September to the Church Office admin@middlewichparishchurch.org.uk . You can also place articles in the pigeon hole for the Church Office.

Alternatively, you can e-mail direct to Margaret English at:
margaretetlm@hotmail.com.

The church website address is
<http://middlewichparishchurch.org.uk/>

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