

The Messenger

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



Canalside cairn by the Llangollen Canal in Shropshire,
Bridge 14w

February 2012

50p

Service plan for February 2012

5th February– 3rd Sunday before Lent

8.00 am	Middlewich	Communion
9.15 am	Middlewich	Communion
11.00 am	Middlewich	Communion
11.00 am	Byley	Morning Prayer
6.30 pm	Middlewich	Evening Praise

12th February– 2nd Sunday before Lent

9.15 am	Middlewich	Communion
11.00 am	Middlewich	Morning Praise
11.00 am	Byley	Communion
2.30 pm	Middlewich	Baptism
6.30 pm	Middlewich	Evensong

19th February– Sunday next before Lent

9.15 am	Middlewich	Communion
11.00 am	Middlewich	All Age Worship
11.00 am	Byley	Morning Prayer
6.30 pm	Middlewich	Church @ 28

Ash Wednesday- 22nd February– Communion, 7.30 pm

26th February– 1st Sunday of Lent

9.15 am	Middlewich	Communion
11.00 am	Middlewich	Morning Praise
11.00 am	Byley	Communion
2.30 pm	Middlewich	Baptism
6.30 pm	Middlewich	Evening Praise

Each Tuesday- Healing Service, 9.30 am

Each Thursday- Communion, 9.30 am

St Michael's Church Office

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01606 738005

Office hours 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday

Administrator: Mrs Pat Pugh

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For further contact details please see p20 ...

Our three bishops joined a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2011.....

Thoughts on a pilgrimage

By Susan Hull

Inspired by Bishops Peter, Robert and Keith

We strive to learn what lies beneath,

Our Saviour's gentle kindness.

Unfathomable endless love

Is sent by God from Heaven above

To cherish, nurture and sustain

To give us hope and ease our pain.

So now a pilgrim I've become

and under Israel's golden sun

I thought about the things I'd seen

When in Gethsemane's garden green

I pondered – could it really be

God was man for such as we.

A tomb by human hand was made

And there Christ's bleeding form was laid

He rose and went to Galilee

The miracle for all to see

Now Lord from you the truth I'll seek

May I be strong to help the weak

And when I stumble if I fall

I'll offer you my life, my all.

Dear Friends

A man was walking along a cliff top one day and fell off. As he plummeted downwards he managed to grab hold of a bush growing on the cliff face. He could neither climb up or down so decided to call for help. 'Hello is there anybody up there? Hello' he called. After a few minutes a voice replied 'What are you doing down there?' 'I fell', the man said, 'please can you help me!' 'Yes', came the reply 'let go!' The man considered this option briefly; 'Hello, could you repeat that again' ... 'Let go!' came the reply. Then the man called out 'Who is this?' 'God!' came the reply. There was a moments silence as the man looked down at the rocks below. Then he called out 'Excuse me is there anybody else up there?'



The season of Lent will soon be upon us; Ash Wednesday is 22nd February. Traditionally this is a time for reassessing our spiritual life and perhaps setting ourselves some new goals.

One of the better known verses from the book of Proverbs is: Where there is no vision the people perish (Prov 29:18). Vision has become a popular word in the business and industrial world where company vision, mission statements and strategy seem to be essential these days. But the proverb also has relevance for Christians too. We are people who are on a journey. What we look forward to matters. We are not, as some would have us believe, a randomly concocted mixture of atoms that happens to 'live' for a period before dying once more. We are God's children and we all have a destiny whether we like it or not.

That is why what we do with our lives here on earth matters, why we need a vision. Writing to the early church in Ephesus the Apostle Paul says: Be very careful then how you live ... do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is (Eph 5:15-17). When I was working for a local authority we had annual reviews which usually included the question 'Where do you want to be in 12

months time?'. This however is not the question we as the Christian church should be asking. Our review question should be 'Where does God want us to be in 12 months time?'

The ultimate example of someone seeking God's will over and above their own must be that of Jesus himself. In the garden of Gethsemane, just before his arrest and crucifixion Jesus prayed that God would prevent the whole thing happening: My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will (Matt 26:39). Fortunately for us Jesus was prepared to obey God's will, not his own.

During the coming year as the church, both in Middlewich & Byley, we need to embark upon a journey to learn what God's will is for our lives and to obey it. It will be a risky business, God may on occasions ask us to 'Let go' and I'm sure there will be sacrifices to make. If we will do it then I am sure we will see God's kingdom growing amongst us, but if we have no vision then perhaps we will indeed perish, or at best be left dangling on the edge of the cliff with nowhere to go.

Yours in Christ

Simon Drew

CONGRATULATIONS PAT!

We are very sorry to be saying farewell to Pat Pugh as our Administrator. Pat has been appointed by the Diocese of Chester to be the Archdeacon of Macclesfield's new P.A. Pat's last day in the office at Number 28 will be 23rd February.

Pat started as our administrator in the yet to be completed Number 28 on 20th March 2010 and was heavily involved in getting it opened at the end of April that same year. She has, as we all know, worked tirelessly since to keep Number 28 working well providing a smiling face, a listening ear and practical support to us all. Pat will be missed greatly in the office, by the team and not least by me, but we congratulate her on her elevation and wish God's rich blessings on her in this new role. Our loss is certainly the Diocese's gain.



Simon Drew (Rector)

Middlewich Finances

The accounts for last financial year are not yet finalised, but it is already clear that our target to break even on the routine day to day expenditure has been achieved: we are ending the year with a small surplus of about £1,000, and we thank God for his grace and you for your generosity in making this possible.



There has also been expenditure on projects, principally the purchase of a new photocopier to replace old and unreliable equipment (£3,400) and further small items in the refurbishment and equipping of Number 28 amounting to about £2,600. These were offset by a donation of about £1,000, so the net expenditure is about £5,000 which has come out of our reserves.

During 2012 we intend to manage our funds in the same way, distinguishing between routine expenditure and projects. Our aim will be not to draw down on reserves at all for routine expenditure, and to minimise the draw down for projects by seeking donations towards them: in some cases, projects will not proceed unless they are fully funded by donations.

There will be pressures on the routine expenditure account during 2012, including reductions in income because of (for example) retirements, and increases in expenditure because of inflation, new ministry initiatives and the reduction in our investment income.

Projects for 2012 will include the remaining expenditure on the Number 28 project, now only about £500, new audio visual equipment in the church and Number 28 and the expected work required by the forthcoming quinquennial inspection of the church.

We will keep you updated on a quarterly basis, and ask you to pray with us that we will be wise in all financial matters, and that by the grace of God we will be able to expand our ministry to Middlewich while keeping our finances in good order.

Mike Reed
PCC Vice Chairman

Simon Drew
Rector

Stuart Barber
Treasurer

A Letter from Georgina (Hirst that is...)

Dear Everyone at St Michaels

I was very surprised when I received a big parcel from the church and slightly overwhelmed when I opened it today and found it full of real chocolate (something Chileans just do not know how to make!). I have had a lovely Christmas although it was very strange to be away from home but I did have a wonderful Skype with the whole family this afternoon.

A bit about what I am doing here. I am currently working in two schools: a country school called Vega Larga and an urban school in Lautaro which is called Escuela 6. Vega Larga is very small! It has 150 students if that, and 8 teachers including the headmaster. All the students are absolutely adorable. They aren't the richest of people and live very simple lives and I think that is why they really appreciate everything they have. When we arrive every morning, me and my partner from Project Trust, Caitlin, are always welcomed with 'holas' and hugs and kisses from the students. For a lot of the older ones we feel more like older sisters than teachers! The other school I teach at, called Escuela 6, is more difficult. There is not a lot of discipline there and we have to deal with class sizes of about 16 which doesn't sound like a lot but when you are not a professional teacher and do not have that much authority, that is a lot of students.

It has been quite difficult to adapt to the culture here. It takes 10 minutes to say hello or good-bye in any social situation because of the amount of kisses and hugs that have to be given. At first I would stand back and just avoid it when I could, but now I absolutely love it! It is such a caring culture and I know that I will miss it a lot when I am back home.

Thank you for helping me get here with your help when I was fund-raising. I could not have done it without the help and support of the church.

Love to you all.

Georgina



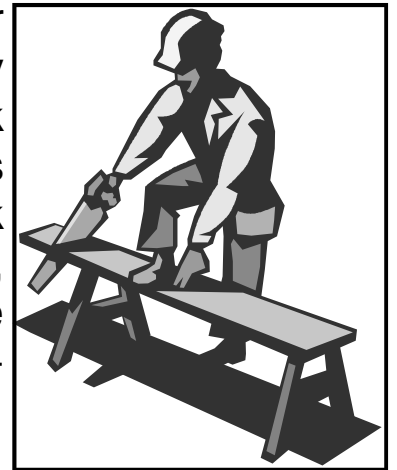
THE CARPENTER

Once upon a time, two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side-by-side, sharing machinery and trading labour and goods as needed without a hitch.

Then the long collaboration fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference and finally, it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I 'm looking for a few days' work," he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there I could help with? Could I help you?"

"Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbour. In fact, it's my younger brother! Last week there was a meadow between us. He recently took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll do him one better. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence, an 8-foot fence -- so I won't need to see his place or his face anymore."



The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day -- measuring, sawing and nailing. About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job.

The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge. A bridge that stretched from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails and all! And the neighbour, his younger brother, was coming toward them, his hand outstretched..

"You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in the middle, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his

toolbox onto his shoulder.

"No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother.

"I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have many more bridges to build."

Children's Views

A little child in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed the offering plates. When they neared the pew where he sat, the youngster piped up so that everyone could hear: "Don't pay for me Daddy, I'm under five."

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen," the boy responded. His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?" "Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the Bishop said: "4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mum, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up." "That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?" "Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell than to sit and listen."



St Luke's Hospice

Between January and March we will be fundraising for this charity. As part of this initiative, on Wednesday 8th February there will be :

Afternoon tea at Number 28

More details to follow! Keep your eyes open for other exciting fund-raising events!

Parish Registers for 2012

Baptisms

27th November	Harry Edward Wright
	Ellen Sophia McKenna
11th December	Faith Elizabeth Clowes

Weddings

31st December	David Duffy and Helen Woolfenden
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Funerals

17th November	Audrey Jump	St. Anne's Avenue
23rd November	Desmond Bail	Manor Crescent
1st December	Gladys Williams	Canal Terrace
6th December	Alan Stockall	Darlington Street
8th December	Elsie Green	The Manor
14th December	Paul Yarwood	Hayhurst Avenue
20th December	Lilian Cammack	Newton Court
21st December	Marjorie Wakeham	Linden Court, Crewe
5th January	James Astles	Poplar Drive

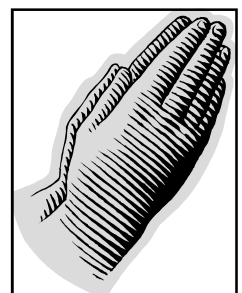
There is always someone available to pray with you after services.

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.



Missions and Charities at Middlewich

Last year we supported four charities:

St Lukes Hospice (Jan-March)

Save the Family (April-June)

Christ for all in Andhra Pradesh (July-September)

CMS in Paraguay (October-December)

We will continue to support and promote these charities during 2012, and ask you to join with us in praying for their work and raising money for them.

A number of people have asked us how we deal with the funds we raise for these worthy causes. The answer is that all the money raised is passed to the charities at the end of the quarter, but that the PCC tops up the donation so that at the end of the year we have, in total, given 10% of our voluntary income to them. In 2011, a total of about £10,500 was distributed. If you have any questions about this arrangement, please speak to Simon Drew, Mike Reed or Stuart Barber.

If you would like to help with the activities supporting any of these charities, please speak to Sylvia Bosomworth (St Lukes), Jo Hulse (Save the Family), Ruth Broadfoot (Christ for All) or Linda Webber (CMS).

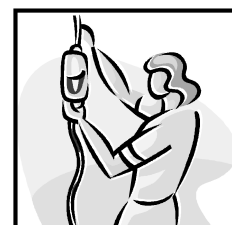
Mike Reed

Christmas Card Charity Boards

A
Big 'Thank You' to everyone
Who placed a card on the charity board,
or in Number 28.

£85.00 was raised for
Macmillan Cancer Support

Miriam Sant



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Welcome to the Mothers' Union page.

During 2012 we will be visited by some very exciting speakers, including:

- Linda Tiongco – Christian Aid (8 May)
- Heather Carlton – MU rep. for young members (12 June)
- Richard Rawlinson – “Help the Heroes” (11 September)
- Keith Ineson – “My role as Agricultural Chaplain” (9 October)
- Joan Colwell – “Christmas Crackers” (13 November)

All our meetings are held in Number 28. Please join us for lunch at 12.30pm or just come along to the presentation at 1.30pm.

Future events:

Tuesday, 14 February

Annual General Meeting, Chairman: Rev. Simon Drew

Friday, 2 March

Women's World Day of Prayer. Prepared by Christian Women of Malaysia, “Let Justice Prevail”. It will be held at 1.30pm at the Methodist Church, Cledford, not URC as in our MU programme.

Tuesday, 13 March

This date has been allocated to our Deanery for the “Wave of Prayer”: St Michael's time is 10.00am. We will meet in the church porch shortly before 10 o'clock and wait until the normal Tuesday Healing Service has ended. Please bring your service sheets with you; they are printed in the centre of the Winter edition of MU Matters. Refreshments in Number 28 afterwards, in the upstairs meeting room, for notices and to discuss future events.

Sunday, 18 March

Mothering Sunday. Please give your donation for flowers to Pauline Davies.

Thursday, 22 March

Deanery Festival Service: 7.00pm at St John's church, Sandiway.

Thursday, 29 March

Hot Cross Bun Coffee Morning and table top sale, to be held in Number 28 at 10.30am following morning communion.

The members would like to express their grateful appreciation to the PCC for their generous donation of £1,000 for "Save the Family". The administration team have now relocated to Cotton Hall Farm and are awaiting the arrival of their first two families.

Jo Hulse

Mothers Union Sunday Rota

Duty	February	March
Intercessions	Susan Hawkes	Vi Neale-Smith
Banner	Chris Overton	Pam Dunning
Escorts	Pam Jackson & Thelma Ashley	Janet Chisholm & Chris Overton
Offertory	Pauline Davies & Merle Ikin	Miriam Sant & Susan Hawkes

Please turn the lights off!

PLEASE NOTE IT COSTS ABOUT £2,500 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 with prayers
	1.30 pm	SMILERS at church (not during school holidays)
	7.00 pm	Rehearsals for the Festival Choir in Church
Tuesday	7.30 pm	SMAART St Michael's handbell ringers
	9.30 am	Healing service and coffee at Number 28
Wednesday	7.30 pm	Tower ringing practice in church
	7.00 am	Prayer in church
	9.30 am	Prayer @ 28
	6.00 pm	Worship group
Thursday	7.30 pm	Choir practice
	9.30 am	Communion
	7.30 pm	Card Group at Number 28
Friday	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
	8.00 pm	AFTER DARK (Club for years 10 and above) not during school holidays

A note to magazine Distributors

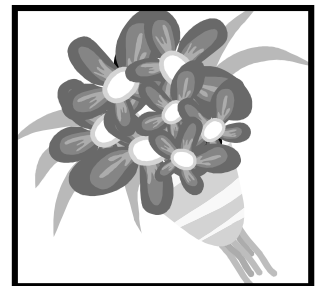
It's time to collect annual subscriptions for *the Messenger* again! Would all distributors please ensure that their record sheets are returned along with the monies. These should be updated to show the full name and address of each recipient, so that church records can be amended.

Thank you for all your help throughout the year.

Easter Flowers

The churches of Middlewich and Byley always look wonderful at Easter.

If you would like to contribute towards flowers for the churches during this season in memory of a loved one, please fill in the form on the facing page and send/give it to Gladys Robinson (for St. Michaels) or Celia Wilkinson (for St John's).



Easter Flowers

I enclose £.....towards the cost of Easter flowers at
Byley/Middlewich Parish Church (please delete one).

In Memory of

.....

Signed.....Date.....

Address.....

Please complete in block letters and return to:

Mrs G. Robinson, 2 orchard Close, Middlewich (for Middlewich)
Or Mrs C. Wilkinson, Yew Tree Farm, Byley (for Byley).

Fun and Games at Number 28

You will have noticed that Number 28 was closed between 9th and 20th January. This was because of repairs to the flooring made necessary by the flood in late December 2010 which started at a burst water meter by the back door and flowed through the building and out through the front door. Fortunately, the water was clean and although the damage to the floors was substantial it has been possible to continue to use the building during the subsequent year.

The reasons for the long delay in making the repairs are: need for the building to be absolutely dry before suppliers could assess the extent of repairs required; requirement for obtaining multiple quotations from suitable companies because of the size of the insurance claim; withdrawal of the selected supplier at the last minute; and the decision to assess the replacement of the woodblock 'shop' floor with carpet. The total cost of repairs was about £5,600, all but £50 of which is covered by our insurers: by the time you read this, everything should be complete.

Mike Reed



Make a Mother's Day 2012

Mothers' Union is working through a grassroots membership of 4 million people to support families and communities around the world. This Mothering Sunday, as you remember your mother, we are asking you do something a little different.

Instead of flowers or a box of chocolates why not buy her an ethical gift that will support another mother? Will you give an ethical gift this Mothering Sunday and change a life? You might, like me, give a donation in memory of your mother who is not around any more.

Whatever gift you choose you can know that it will be funding our work in some of the world's most deprived communities. Each gift represents part of the cost crucial to running a Mothers' Union project. A gift, however small, can make a real difference to a mother's life. There are ten gifts to choose from and they range from £3 for "practical help at times of crisis" to £100 for a "mum where there is no mum".

If you would like to receive a card to give to your mother, we will need to have it by Sunday, 4th March at the latest. You can either opt for an individual gift, in which case please see me, or donate towards a general gift from the church.

More information is at the back of church along with a box for your donations; or you can talk to a member of the Mothers' Union.

Thank you for your support and together let us "Make a Mother's Day"

Susan Hawkes

All for Christ & Christ for All – A vision for 2012?

During November of 2011 Middlewich PCC and the staff team reviewed our goals (vision) for 2011. They were:

- 1) To appoint and settle a new incumbent committed to mission.
- 2) To see financial improvement.
- 3) To make Street Pastors an established part of the townscape.

We are pleased to say that these goals were achieved during 2011. Our thanks to all within the church family who worked so hard to make these objectives a reality.

We then looked ahead and asked ourselves what would we like to see as our goals for 2012? The discussion lead us to identify an overall vision, or strap line:

All for Christ & Christ for All

This phrase picks up the two key elements of our own discipleship (All for Christ) and our call to mission (Christ for All).

Looking at our wish list for 2012 we identified one key goal for each element plus one additional practical goal. These are:

Discipleship – To review and strengthen our home/small group structure.

Mission – To encourage congregational growth at the 11am service.

This will involve a review of our work with families through baptism, Smilers, and Kingdom Kids, as well as the 11am service itself.

Practical – To review the past plans for developing the church building and, in the light of the new church centre (Number 28) and the recent architects inspection, identify a plan for moving forwards.

These three goals will guide our thinking and actions during 2012. They are not exclusive and there will be other initiatives and developments in the life of our church. But these three are our agreed priorities. Please work with us so that by the end of 2012 we can say that these goals have also been achieved.

Simon Drew

**Unless the Lord
Builds the house, its
Builders labour in
Vain.
(Psalm 127:1)
So don't forget to
Pray!**

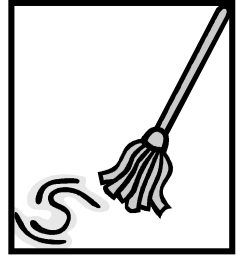
Byley Notices

Cleaning Rota for February

5th.....E. Winnett

12th-19th.....V. Farrow

26th-March 4th.....J. Percival



Carol Singing

A very successful Carol Singing Evening raised the grand total of £274 which has been forwarded to the Children's Society. Thanks to all of those who took part in the singing and the generous donations that were given. Again we must express our thanks to Jonathon and Josie Trelawny for inviting everyone back for supper to round off a most enjoyable evening.

February Whist Drive

The February whist drive is on Tuesday 7th at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Rose Fete 2012

The date for the Rose Fete is Saturday 9th June

The selection of the Rose Queen and her Retinue will be on :-

SUNDAY 4th MARCH at 2.00pm
in THE VILLAGE HALL

All children wanting to take part in this year's retinue should attend this meeting.

For more information ring Ruth on 01606 46263

Byley in February 2012

5th February	Morning Prayer Readers Sidesman	Jacqui Briscoe Organist James Bennion James Bennion
12th February	Communion Readers Sidesman	Liz Woode A Nichol G Richardson Nigel Martin
19th February	Morning Prayer Readers Sidesman	Thia Hughes J Percival C Wilkinson Caroline Oakes
26th February	Communion Readers Sidesman	Simon Drew Organist V Farrow Celia Wilkinson

Byley Readers

For those who like to prepare well in advance, the readers for the beginning of March are:

March 4th	F Walton A Halman
March 11th	G Richardson J Percival



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

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Christine Hankey, Byley Village Hall

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If you have any articles or photographs for the next magazine, please would you e-mail them by **15th February** 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
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