

The Messenger

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



Congleton MP Fiona Bruce joins in the discussion about topical news items during Church @ 28 on 10th April

Picture kindly donated by Simon J Newbury Photography
(www.simonjnewburyphotography.co.uk)

May 2011

50p

Service plan for May 2011

1st May

2nd Sunday of Easter

8.00 am	Middlewich	Communion
9.15 am	Middlewich	Communion
11.00 am	Middlewich	All Age Service
11.00 am	Byley	Morning Praise
6.30 pm	Middlewich	No Service

Tuesday 3rd May Healing Service 9.30am

Thursday 5th May Communion 9.30am

Thursday 5th May Archdeacon's Visitation 7.30pm. Hartford

Saturday 7th May Prayer Breakfast 9.00am

8th May

3rd Sunday of Easter

8.00 am	Middlewich	No Communion
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

15th May

4th Sunday of Easter

8.00 am	Middlewich	No Communion
9.15 am	Middlewich	Communion
11.00 am	Middlewich	All Age Service
11.00 am	Byley	Morning Prayer
6.30 pm	Middlewich	Church @ 28

	<i>22nd May</i>	<i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>
8.00 am	Middlewich	No Communion
9.15 am	Middlewich	Communion
11.00 am	Middlewich	Morning Praise
11.00 am	Byley	Communion
6.30 pm	Middlewich	Evening Praise

	<i>29th May</i>	<i>6th Sunday of Easter - Rogation Sunday</i>
8.00 am	Middlewich	No Communion
9.15 am	Middlewich	Communion
11.00 am	Middlewich	Morning Praise
11.00 am	Byley	Morning Praise
7.00 pm	Fields Farm, Occlestone	Rogation Celebration

A letter from Mike

Lorraine and I joined St Michael's in the late summer of 2004, and it has been a great encouragement to both of us to be part of the growth in size, activity and spiritual depth of the Church which characterised the years of Ian's incumbency. The Bible encourages us none the less to put behind the past, however good, and 'strain forward to what lies ahead' (Philippians 3v13), and we are looking forward enormously to Simon Drew coming in July to refresh our vision and lead us onwards. There is no doubt in my mind that we must continue to grow: It is a scriptural imperative, but also, from a practical perspective, we need to do so if our churches are still to be contributing parts of the community in twenty years time.

The Middlewich Annual Church meetings (held on 27th March this year) are a necessary part of our journey, as they put in place our governing bodies, and allow the congregation to take part in choosing who represents them. In 2009, in response to a request that we consider those church members who found getting to an evening meeting difficult, the PCC decided as an experiment to hold the meeting on a Sunday morning. We did this for the first time in April 2010 and found that the numbers attending were slightly increased, resulting in a decision to continue the experiment in 2011.

The first meeting, the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, exists principally to elect the Churchwardens. Last year we decided to have three Churchwardens, and the policy was continued this year. Linda Webber, Steve Bailey and Fiona Loney stood and were elected unopposed.

The second meeting, the annual Parochial Church Meeting, had a longer agenda. The first part was for the election of four PCC members, three Deanery Synod Representatives and two PCC Reader Representatives. Although we have often had competition for some of these posts, necessitating an election, this year we did not. Mike Reed, Christine Malkin, Stuart Barber and Robert Reed were elected to the PCC. Hugh Malkin, Joanne Wilson and Sylvia Bosomworth were appointed Deanery Synod Representatives, and Tony Woode and Steve Broadfoot were elected as Reader Representatives on the PCC.

The Electoral Roll report, produced by Ruth Broadfoot, showed that over the year the Roll had risen by two to exactly 200. The meeting then unanimously passed a motion proposed by Stewart Prentice which defines the arrangements for increasing the number of elected PCC members if the Electoral Roll should exceed 200.

Linda Webber then gave the Churchwardens' Address in which she expressed our thanks to Ian Bishop for his service and looked forward to the arrival of our new Rector, Simon Drew, in July. She listed the many things which, by the grace of God we achieved during 2010, emphasising how much we owe to those who volunteer their time so generously and in particular those who have been busier than usual during the vacancy.

Hugh Malkin then gave his last report as Treasurer, showing that we had finished the year with a deficit of about £9,400 on the cost of normal church activities, compared with an expectation of a £20,000 deficit when the giving campaign was launched in October. Steve Bailey then presented gifts to Hugh in recognition of his long service as treasurer. Our new Treasurer, Stuart Barber, then presented his plan for 2011: by raising more money for missions and family work, breaking even on the costs of running Number 28 and increasing giving by 5% it is hoped that we will break even by the end of the calendar year. The meeting unanimously adopted the financial and annual reports for 2010 and appointed Neil Clewes as independent examiner for 2011.

Fiona Loney then presented the annual report on the 'Fabric, Goods and Ornaments' of the Church, and Hugh Malkin reported on the activities of the Deanery Synod.

Finally, Jeremy Coles reported on his work as the Director of Music and Family Work, concentrating on the work among the young people of the parish. His work in the seven schools is not very visible to those of us without young children, but is valued greatly by the schools and is a key part of our Mission to the town. The work with our own young people is invaluable, and Jeremy expressed his thanks to those who help him in this area. We are blessed indeed to have someone of Jeremy's calibre on the staff team, and one of the PCC's key reasons for seeking to increase the income of the church is to ensure that we can maintain and expand our work in the parish with families and young people.



The PCC look forward to reporting again to you in 2012: may God bless us all during the coming year as we seek to grow His kingdom in Middlewich.

Mike Reed, PCC Vice Chairman

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.





CHURCHES in CHESHIRE Charity Golf Day 2011

Heyrose Golf Club

Budworth Road, Tabley, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 0HZ

Friday 17th June
Shotgun start 9.30am

18 Hole Better Ball Stableford Competition.
10% of the entry fee, plus any surplus from the day will be shared equally
between
East Cheshire Hospice and St Luke's Hospice

Entrants are welcome to book in as Individuals, Pairs or Teams of Four. If
booking as an individual or a pair you will be allocated on the day into a
team of four players.

Teams of four will play together as a group and can be any combination
Men, Ladies and mixed.
1st, 2nd Team Prizes plus Individual Prizes will be awarded plus 'special'
prizes

Competitors need not be a member of a recognised Golf Club or Society

Entry Fee £35.00 per person which includes meals.

Prize Presentation after lunch in the clubhouse.

Application form on facing page.

	<i>Player</i>	<i>H/cap</i>	<i>Contact Details (email or address + tel no.)</i>
1			
1			<i>(main contact)</i>
2			
1			<i>(main contact)</i>
2			
3			
4			

Please include details of 1, 2 or 4 players as required (Player 1 will be regarded as the main contact) and send with a £10 Deposit per player to:

Ven. Ian Bishop, 57a Sandbach Road, Congleton CW12 4LH

(Cheques to be made payable to 'Mr J Stokoe')

Any queries to Ian.Bishop@chester.anglican.org or jstokoe@rocketmail.com

Local church contact for *St. Michael and All Angels* is Keith Walsh

"A Stitch in Time"

This stitching group has been meeting occasionally over the last couple of years and working on a wall hanging depicting the life of the church and Middlewich. Thanks to having the facility of Number 28, we are now meeting on the first Wednesday of every month for coffee downstairs at 10.15 am and then moving upstairs to discuss and stitch! If you feel like coming and joining in, you will be very welcome. For more information please speak to Miriam Sant, Pam Jackson or Edna Rose.



The Stitching Ladies of the Upper Room!

Susan Hawkes

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.

Confirmation

It was a great joy to share in the Confirmation Service on March 27th. Those confirmed were: Jess Hooper, Harriet Loney, Daniel Bishop, Will Bishop, Anita Halman, Victoria Matchett, Bill Morrison, Paul Hassall, Andrew Slade and Mark Rimmer.

*Unless the Lord
builds the house, its
builders labour in
vain.*

(Psalm 127:1)

*So don't forget to
pray!*

Bishop Keith conducted the service and made it so very special. He preached on the story of the Woman at the Well from John's gospel in a way that was so full of God's wisdom and so accessible. But it was the confirmation itself which was so moving. The Bishop spent real time with each candidate as he laid hands on them and prayed for them – and the church was praying too. Then for some it was their first Communion.

I would like to thank everyone who was there to support our candidates – to Jeremy, especially for the solo of Matt Redman's song "The heart of Worship", the Music group, Anne and the choir, and all of you who were there to pray. You were all important! There was such a sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit through that service – I pray that all of you were blessed.

Our Confirmations are times of commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and a public declaration of faith– for some for the first time. For others, who perhaps have come from different Christian churches, it is an opportunity to recommit your lives and to identify yourselves fully with the life, worship and ministry of St. Michael's. We have requested a confirmation service for the same time next year. Please could all those who have not yet been confirmed pray about making this full commitment to our churches of St. Michael's and St. John's.

Not the Confirmation Classes



I have had a request from a member of our congregation. She was confirmed at the age of 13, many years ago! She has asked that I might offer the Confirmation Classes to people like her. The course I run deals with such things as Baptism, Communion, what we believe as expressed in the Creed, Prayer, and something on Grace and Works. She felt she would like a refresher course on some of these things not covered in the Alpha course. I would be very happy to run a course for four sessions of about an hour sometime in May/June. If you are interested, please could you let me know, and give me some idea at what sort of time you would be available.

Liz Woode

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Happy Birthday

An indoor member, Doris Roberts will be celebrating her 90th birthday on 25th May. We wish her a very happy birthday and send all our love. Doris came to live at The Manor a few years ago, but is not surrounded by many of her family; Middlewich is still a strange town to her, having spent all her married life in North Wales. Please pray for her and particularly for one of her grandsons who is serving with our troops in Afghanistan. She has a lovely photograph of him in her room and is awaiting his safe return.

Save the Family

We have started our fund raising for this very worthwhile organisation at Plas Bellin. There is a collection box at Number 28 but if you have any ideas to help this charity please speak to a committee member.

Future events:

Tuesday, 10 May

Monthly meeting at Number 28. Our speaker is Mrs L. Mumford, Nantwich Deanery Leader: "Faith Journey – Change at Crewe". Lunch is at 12.30pm with the presentation at 1.30pm. All visitors are very, very welcome to our meetings.

Thursday, 19 May

Diocesan Festival Eucharist at Chester Cathedral at 11.00am, including all Deanery banners and Chester Archdeaconry branch banners. If you would like to go to the cathedral for this lovely service and also meet our new MU Diocesan Chaplain, Reverend James Ambrose, please give your name to Pam (832286) or Miriam (832583).

Tuesday, 14 June

At our monthly meeting (at Number 28) our branch member Vi Neale-Smith will be telling us all about "A Wonderful Life". Lunch: 12.30pm, presentation: 1.30pm.

Tuesday, 12 July

Holy Communion at 2.00pm followed by a Strawberry Tea.

<i>Mothers Union Sunday Rota</i>		
Duty	May	June
Intercessions	Jo Hulse	Miriam Sant
Banner	Chris Overton	Angela Tempest
Escorts	Edna Rose & Angela Tempest	Pauline Davies & Merle Ikin
Offertory	Vi Neale-Smith & Miriam Sant	Janet Chisholm & Pam Dunning

Thia's Priesting

Please note, Thia's priesting will take place on the afternoon of 18th June (Folk and Boat weekend). More details will be available nearer to the date.



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
Thursday	7.30 pm	Choir practice (not during August)
	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

Folk and Boat Festival on 18th-19th June

Volunteers are urgently needed to help during this weekend. If you are able and willing to help, then please contact a team leader. They are:

KITCHEN STAFF.....Elaine Reynolds 01606 832596

WAITING ON STAFF.....Sue Bailey 01606 834264

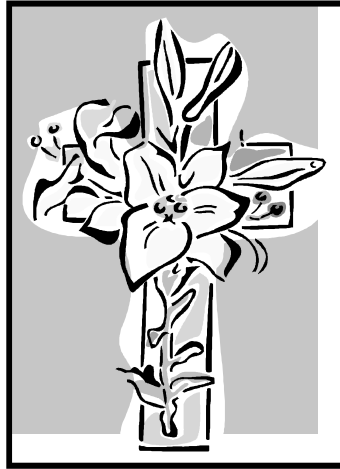
CHURCH STEWARDS.....Mike Reed 01606 781071

OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT..A team leader is needed to work with Jeremy.

We need a lot of people for this event; please consider helping even if it is only for an hour!

Easter Flowers

The cost of Easter flowers has been donated by, or in memory of, the following people.



George Bailey
Mr and Mrs Egerton
Mrs Jessie Wilson and Louisa Horsfield
Chris Webber
The Wilson Family
Mr and Mrs E Dodd
Mr William Hendey
Mr John Edgar Starkey
Mr and Mrs C Palin
Mr and Mrs E Lamb
Mr B Palin
SR Drinkwater
A and R Stanton
Don Hall
Charles and Ivy Hall
George and Jane Bennett
Jane and Bill Arrowsmith
Bill and Elsie Higginson
Eileen and Frank Ikin
Bill Higginson Jnr
Jean Coulson
Rachael Stride
Alfred and Winifred Hardy
George Robinson
Tony Reynolds
Sally Gerrard
Bessie and Richard Williams

Two of the books available on the Bookstall

The best music comes out of wood grown in one of two places: above the timber line and below the waterline. Above the timber line is where the trees have to fight for their existence. Growth that has to fight to grow, understands the source of its growth, and the love it gives back to that source makes it extremely dense and resonant.

The maple wood chosen by Antonio Stradivari (1644-1737) and used to craft the violins we know as “Stradivaris” comes from the forests of Croatia, where the harsh winters create a slow growth prized by luthiers to this day.

Below the water line is the best source of wood for electric guitars. To harvest this wood you need to fight off alligators and snakes.

In his book **“You can’t do everything ... do something”**, Shane Stanford shows how the best instruments of God’s grace and love come from slow and steady growth, often under adverse conditions, and that don’t attempt to reach maturity too quickly.

In a world where to do nothing is not an option, this book calls us to do something. When we keep on keeping on, when we keep on playing when we don’t feel like playing, or wonder whether anyone is listening, our wood actually ages along with our playing and makes the quality of the tonal sound even greater.

The real need for our world is not that we do every part. Working together to do that something God calls us to do – all of us working together – we will transform this world.

“The Vicar of Bagdad” is the story of Andrew White who, when he was very young, had his career mapped out and was very sure of what he was going to do.

It tells how, from working in the anaesthetic side of St Thomas’ Hospital in London, he was called to become an Anglican Priest and is now one of a tiny handful of people trusted by virtually every side in the complex Middle East.

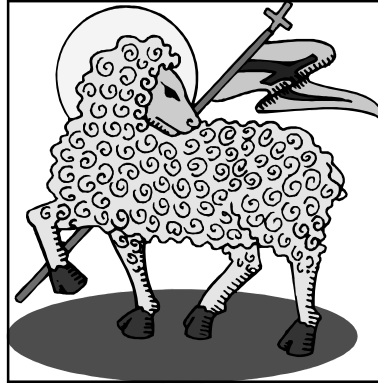
Political and military solutions constantly fail. Andrew offers a different approach, speaking as a man of faith to men of faith.

Compassionate and shrewd, gifted in human relationships, he has been deeply involved in the rebuilding of Iraq. His first-hand connections and profound insights make this a fascinating read.

Ruth Broadfoot



I am indebted to Linda Webber for sending me the poem below



God hath not promised skies always blue
Flower strewn pathways, all our lives through;
God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labour, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing kindness, undying love.

God hath not promised we shall not know
Toil and temptations, trouble and woe;
He hath not told us we shall not bear
Many a burden, many a care.

But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labour, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing kindness, undying love.

God hath not promised smooth roads and wide,
Swift, easy travel, needing no guide;
Never a mountain, rocky and steep,
Never a river turbid and deep.

But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labour, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing kindness, undying love.

[by: *Annie Johnson Flint* -- from *Aiken Drum*]

Parish Registers for 2011

Baptisms

27th March Charlie John Harthill
Noah Thomas Harthill
Molly Susan Green
Oliver David James May

Weddings

26th March Rebecca Mounfield and Philip Brayne
9th April Rebekka Sharkey and Benjamin Jones

Funerals

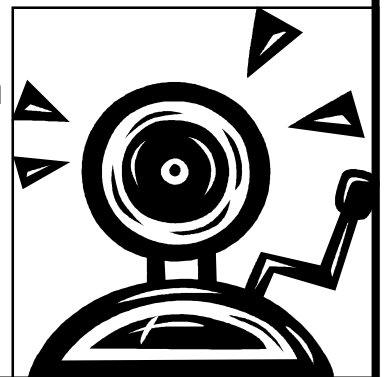
22nd March	Colin Dutton	Prestatyn, Clwyd
14th April	Thomas Flaherty	St Anns Avenue

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.



Byley Church News

Cleaning Rota

May 8th / 15th V Farrow

22nd / 29th J Percival

June 5th / 12th R Bennion

Whist Drive Dates

May 3rd and 31st at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Rogation Sunday

Sunday 29th May

This year's Rogation Sunday Service will be held at Fields Farm, Occlestone Green by kind invitation of John, Jeremy and Elizabeth Platt.

The service will begin at 7.00pm, please wear appropriate footwear as we will be walking around the farm. Again we call upon your generosity to bring along a plate of food for the 'Bring and Share Supper' afterwards.
All welcome.

(For Fields Farm turn left at Wimboldsley School)

Rose Fete

Saturday 11th June

Please see poster overleaf for details of this fantastic annual event!

As the Rose Fete fast approaches we will again be collecting for items for the Tombola and ask for your support with donations.



Byley Parish Church

Rose Fete

Saturday 11th June

The Procession leaves at 1.00 pm
Shanty Farm to the Church Field

1st Middlewich Boys Brigade Band
Visiting Queens

Delamere Dog Training Team
Vintage Tractors and Vehicles

Grand Draw

Refreshments : BBQ : Tombola : Hoopla : Games : Competitions
A Variety of Stalls : Lower Moss Wood Animal Sanctuary

Novelty Tug 'o' War
(Weather Permitting)

Admission: £1.00 by Programme
Accompanied Children under 12 years Admitted Free

Byley in May 2011

1st May	Prayers	Tony Woode
	Cleaning	E. Winnett
	Sidesman	Celia Wilkinson
8th May	Prayers	Simon Hamill-Stewart
	Cleaning	V. Farrow
	Sidesman	Wilf Lomas
15th May	Prayers	Jacqui Briscoe
	Cleaning	V. Farrow
	Sidesman	John Bennion
22nd May	Prayers	Liz Woode
	Cleaning	J. Percival
	Sidesman	James Bennion
29th May	Prayers	Steve Broadfoot
	Cleaning	J. Percival
	Sidesman	Alan Percival

The Preacher's Prayer

I do not ask
That crowds so throng the temple
That standing room be at a price.
I only ask, that as I voice the message,
They may see Christ.

I do not ask
For churchly pomp or pageant
Or music such as wealth alone can buy.
I only ask, that as I voice the message,
He may be nigh.

I do not ask
That men may sound my praises,
Or headlines spread my name abroad.
I only ask, that as I voice the message,
Hearts may find God.

(From Templemore Parish Church, Co. Tipperary. Sent to Liz by Rev. Maurice Marshall when she was licensed as a Reader.)

Rector, position vacant until 1st July 2011

Jeremy Coles, Director of Music & Family Work

6 Shilton Close, Middlewich CW10 0RN

01606 738309

jeremy.coles@middlewichparishchurch.org.uk

Rev Liz Woode, Curate & Tony Woode, Reader

6 The Grange, Hartford, CW8 1QH

01606 75030

tonylizwoode@hotmail.com

Rev Thia Hughes, Curate

90 Hartford Rd, Davenham, Northwich. CW9 8JF.

01606350132

Mobile 07970734507

thiahughes@hotmail.com

**Rev Simon Hamill-Stewart, Assistant Priest
& Christine Hamill-Stewart, Reader**

87 Warmingham Lane, Middlewich CW10 0DJ

01606 737329

simchrishs@googlemail.com

Steve Broadfoot, Reader

Ruth Broadfoot, Electoral Roll & Bookstall Manager

22 Angus Grove, Middlewich CW10 9GR

01606 738373

steve.broadfoot@tesco.net

**Jacqui Briscoe, Reader and Alpha leader
& Bob Briscoe, Health and Safety Officer**

53 Lewin Street, Middlewich CW10 9BG

01606 836460

jacquibriscoe@aol.com

Sylvia Bosomworth, Pastoral Care Worker

98 Sutton Lane, Middlewich, CW10 0BY

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sylviabosomworth@btinternet.com

Elaine Reynolds, Pastoral Care Worker

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elaine@reynolds127.fsnet.co.uk

Sue Ikin, Pastoral Care Worker

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Other Middlewich Contacts

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admin@middlewichparishchurch.org.uk

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sbailey4590@aol.com

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74 The Walled Garden, Bostock Hall, Bostock,
Middlewich CW10 9JN

Mobile 07702 881928
01606 861626

linda@webber1010.fsnet.co.uk

Fiona Loney, Middlewich Church Warden

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01606 833180

fiona@residentialdesign.co.uk

**Mike Reed, Middlewich PCC Vice Chairman
& Lorraine Reed, Reader and Ordinand**

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reed.blackbird77@tiscali.co.uk

Christine Malkin, Middlewich PCC Secretary

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christinemalkin@uwclub.net

Stuart Barber, Middlewich PCC Treasurer

24 Waterside Way, Middlewich CW10 9HP

01606 833161

stubarbs@yahoo.co.uk

Jo Hulse, Middlewich Mothers Union

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01606 832198

johulse@freeolamail.com

John Briggs, Pledges Officer

85 Rolt Crescent, Middlewich CW10 0BE

01606 832810

Gladys Robinson, Middlewich Flower Guild

2 Orchard Close, Middlewich CW10 0AU

01606 834923

Anne Hardy, Organist

54 Westlands Road, Middlewich, CW10 9HN

01606 832121

annehardy@greenbee.net

Ian Taylor, Middlewich Bellringers

78 Long Lane, Middlewich CW10 0EN

01606 834095

iantaylor78@aol.com

Glenys Richardson, Byley

The Gables, Byley Lane, Byley, CW10 9NL

01606 834343

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Anne Nichol, Byley PCC Secretary

The Round House, Byley Lane, Cranage,
CW10 9LW

01606 836314

annenicol@btinternet.com

Bruce Gleave, Byley Church Warden

Cross Lane House, Byley, CW10 9NL

01606 832523

**Alan and Jean Percival,
Byley Church Warden and treasurer**

The Green, Yatehouse Lane, Byley, CW10 9NS

01606 833808

Christine Hankey, Byley Village Hall

Chestnut Farm, Byley

01606 832938

And Finally..... Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground (Tracey Clarke, Boaters Christian Fellowship).

If you have any articles or photographs for the June magazine, please would you e-mail them by 15th May 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/>

St Michael's is a properly registered charity, number 1127335

Ian and Jason Hawkin
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Byley Village Hall

Bookings for family parties,
receptions, meetings and
groups

01606 832938

Middlewich Community Centre

(off the Civic Hall Car Park, Middlewich)

Ideal for parties, meetings etc

For further information call

Reg Jackson on 01606 832118



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