

The Messenger

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



St. Michael's War Memorial

November 2011

50p

Service plan for November 2011

6th November– 3rd Sunday before Advent

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

13th November– 2nd Sunday before Advent, Remembrance Sunday

9.15 am	Middlewich	Shortened Communion
10.50 am	Middlewich War Memorial	Act of Remembrance (civic service)
10.55 am	Byley	Communion
2.30 pm	Middlewich	Baptism
6.30 pm	Middlewich	Bereavement Service

20th November– Christ the King

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

27th November– Advent Sunday

9.15 am	Middlewich	Communion (with guest preacher Alan Hawker)
11.00 am	Middlewich	Morning Praise
11.00 am	Byley	Communion
2.30 pm	Middlewich	Baptism
6.30 pm	Middlewich	Evening Praise

There is a Healing Service every Tuesday at 9.30 am

Communion is celebrated every Thursday at 9.30 am

St Michael's Church Office

28 Hightown, Middlewich, CW10 9AN
01606 738005

Office hours 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday
Administrator: Mrs Pat Pugh
admin@middlewichparishchurch.org.uk

For further contact details please see p20 ...

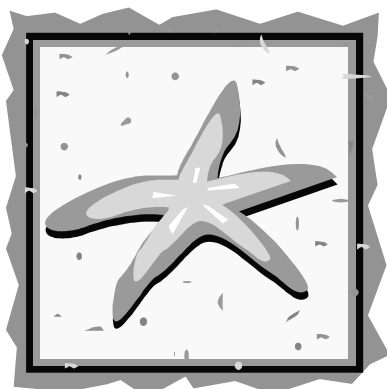
The Starfish Story

Original Story by Loren Eisley

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?"

The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

"Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!"



After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said... "I made a difference for that one."

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Friends,

An elderly couple were entertaining friends one evening. Whilst his wife was in the kitchen making coffee the man told their guests about a wonderful restaurant they had been to recently. 'What's its name?' the guests asked.

'Ah', said the man, 'I'm not sure'.

'Give me the name of a flower', he asked – 'A daffodil?' they replied.

'No, no, a red flower', the man said – 'A tulip?' they replied

'No, no, a red flower with thorns', the man said – 'A rose?' they replied.

'Yes!', the man said, 'a rose'. Then he turned towards the kitchen and called out, 'Rose, what was the name of that restaurant we went to last week?'



November is a month for remembering. On 1st November we celebrate All Saint's Day. A prompt to us to remember all the heroes of the Christian faith. Some of them are named – like St Andrew, St Francis, St Hilda, et. al. But there are many others who are not named specifically as saints – missionaries, aid workers, Sunday School teachers, carers, cleaners & odd job men, to name but a few. These are the people who have devoted their lives to building the Kingdom of God both around the world and in our own communities. Perhaps you can look back and remember a particular person who has helped your growth in faith.

Bonfire Night (5th November) will be followed by Remembrance Day (11th November). This is a prompt to us to remember those fallen heroes who have given their lives in the defence of their country and community. Increasingly fewer people have a personal link with the events of the two World Wars, but our media exposure to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan has made the pain and loss of a dead soldier's family very real to us as a nation once more.

And then on Sunday 15th November we will have our Bereavement Service for those of our community who have died in recent years. This is an opportunity for relatives and friends to remember in prayer loved ones they have lost. They may not have been a saint, or even a military hero but they were someone's hero.

Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends – You are my friends, if you do what I command (John 15:13-14)

These words of Jesus carry a double meaning. They emphasise the loving sacrifice made by men and women throughout the years who have given their lives for the benefit of others. They also remind us of the ultimate sacrifice made by Jesus himself when he died on the cross for our forgiveness and reconciliation. Why, not because we are heroes – but because we are his friends.

Yours in Christ

Revd Simon Drew

YOUTH LED SERVICE – WHAT AN EXPERIENCE!

On Sunday 2nd October the youth group helped to lead the evening service. It was the first time they had done this – a new experience for them and also the congregation who came. The youngsters provided the music for the service, a drama on Lazarus which had the congregation rolling in the aisles, and led the prayers. The Rector preached – but who knows – they might even be doing that soon!

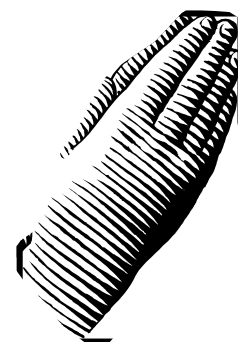
Thanks to all who helped them plan and deliver the service. It was so good that they will be doing it again on 6th November – 6:30pm at St Michael's Church. Do come and see what our youth can do for you.

Revd 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.**



Middlewich Christmas Fayre

The weekend of 2nd to 4th December will mark the beginning of the town's Christmas celebrations, and it promises to be full of fun.

On Friday 2nd December there will be brass bands playing in the town centre from 10am, and from 2pm to 5.30pm there will be a Radio Roadshow, school carol concerts, a reindeer parade, community carol singing, the Christmas lights turn on and a firework display: many of these activities will be in the Church or the Bullring.



On Saturday 3rd December there will be more brass bands, a craft fair in Number 28 Hightown, a craft market and, by popular demand, the return of the Birmingham Community Gospel Choir to the Parish Church at 7.30pm. The choir are fantastic, as anyone who saw them in 2009 will testify. Don't miss it! Tickets are on sale in Number 28, the Victoria Building and Chisholm's newsagents.

On Sunday 4th December the annual 'Christingle' service will be held in the Church at 4pm. No child should miss it!

Look out for posters in the town for more details, or speak to Pat Pugh or the town centre events manager Dave Thompson.

Mike Reed

Church Database

If our Clergy wanted to visit you, would they know where you live?

We are currently updating the database for both St Michael's and St John's. If you have not completed an update form please will you use the form opposite and send to Pat Pugh, Number 28, 28 Hightown, Middlewich CW10 9AN or e-mail her the information at

admin@middlewichparishchurch.org.uk.

Many thanks

Details for Membership Database

Surname.....

First name.....

Address.....

.....

Town.....

Postcode.....

Home telephone (inc code)

.....

Mobile.....

e-mail.....

Spouse/ Partner.....

Mobile.....

e-mail.....

Details of children

Name of child 1.....

Date of birth.....

P.T.O.

Name of child 2.....

Date of birth...../...../.....

Name of child 3.....

Date of birth...../...../.....

Name of child 4.....

Date of birth...../...../.....

Details of any other household member can be recorded here.

.....
.....
.....

Details to be included in Church Directory Yes/ No

Photograph

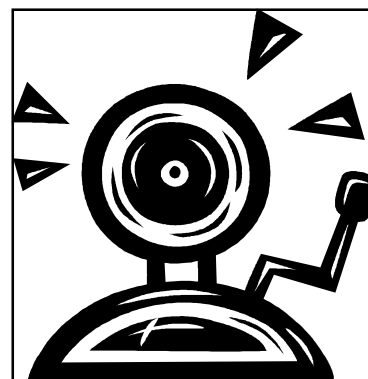
Yes/ No

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?

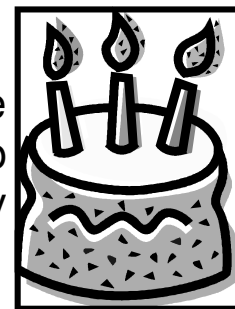
If not, please will you speak to Pat!

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



STREET PASTORS - HAPPY BIRTHDAY

On 5th November the Middlewich Street Pastors will celebrate their first birthday. Launched in November 2010 as a partnership between the five churches of Middlewich with local authority support, this initiative has been a great success.



Once a week four uniform clad volunteers step in faith to meet the nightlife of Middlewich. During the last twelve months they have been able to develop strong relationships with the kids and young people who gather in Middlewich at a weekend, and the pastors are now even given refreshments by the local pubs!

The teams have built up significant trust and respect with these folk. They make it clear to all they meet that they are Christians seeking to share Jesus' love with people who the churches normally do not reach. This has been accepted by the kids and young people who are often keen to talk and even pray with the teams.

There are currently 17 trained volunteers who work as street pastors – going out roughly once a month in teams of four. New 'pastors' are needed to allow the teams to go out more often. There is also a need for prayer support and in this 2nd year this is a key priority. People are needed who will meet and pray whilst the team are out (usually at Number 28) but also people who, although they can't get to Number 28, will commit to praying for the team from home on the night.

If you can offer to help with prayer, or even want to become a street pastor, please speak to either **Anne Latham** or **Simon Drew**.

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

Future events:

Tuesday, 8 November

Monthly meeting: We are delighted to welcome Susan back to Middlewich for the winter months, and she is busy catching up on all the exciting events at St Michael's since her departure in April. However, she has been persuaded to give a presentation at our monthly meeting: "Travelling back to my roots". Soup lunch at Number 28 at 12.30pm followed by the meeting at 1.30pm.

Thursday, 17 November

Diocesan Council at Northwich 9.30am – 1.00pm. Pam, Miriam and Susan will be attending if anyone would like transport.

Wednesday, 23 November

The MU Deanery meeting will be held at Trinity Church, Castle, Northwich at 2.00pm. Please contact a committee member if you would like to attend.

Thursday, 24 November

Our Mince Pie Coffee Morning will be held in Number 28 following mid-week communion. Tickets: £1, proceeds to MU charities; raffle and table top sale proceeds to MU projects. We plan to have some seasonal flower arrangements for sale.

Tuesday, 29 November

Archdeaconry Advent Service at St Mary & St Helen, Neston at 2.00pm. We will be leaving Middlewich by mid-morning, meeting for lunch at Parkgate before making our way to Neston. Please let Pam know if you would like to attend this service. (832286)

Sunday, 11 December

We are so pleased to announce two new members; the Rt Hon Fiona Bruce MP and Mrs Linda Webber, St Michael Church Warden, are to be admitted to the Mothers' Union at the 9.15am service.

Tuesday, 13 December

Monthly meeting: Lunch at Number 28 at 12.30pm followed by a short Advent service at 1.30pm. More details to follow.

We are currently preparing our programme for 2012.

If you have any ideas, or there is a group within St Michael's you would like to hear more about, please let the committee know.



Mothers Union Sunday Rota

Duty	November	December
Intercessions	Pauline Ashley	Miriam Sant
Banner	Pam Dunning	Chris Overton
Escorts	Pauline Davies & Laura Drinkwater	Edna Rose & Angela Tempest
Offertory	Vi Neale-Smith & Susan Hawkes	Janet Chisholm & Pam Dunning

Christian Aid rep for Middlewich

Churches Together are looking for someone to take over as the Christian Aid representative for Middlewich. Not a huge task but very important to ensure that Christian Aid week collections run smoothly.

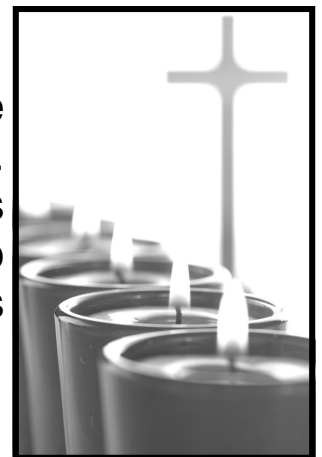
If you are interested please speak to Pat Pugh who has been the representative for the last few years.

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
	7.30 pm	SMAART St Michael's handbell ringers
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
	9.30 am	Prayer @ 28
	6.00 pm	Music group practice
	7.30 pm	Choir practice
Thursday	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

BEREAVEMENT SERVICE **13th November 2011**

On Sunday 13th November 2011, at 6:30pm, there will be a Bereavement Service at St Michael's Church. This is an opportunity for people who have lost friends and relatives in recent years to take a moment to remember them in prayer, give thanks for their lives and to share with others in a similar situation.



All are welcome so if you would like to come along – please do.

Christ for all in Andhra Pradesh

During the past few weeks we have, as a church, been featuring the work of *Christ for All*, hoping to inform new members of St Michael's how our contributions are used, and to revive some memories of how we became involved for those who have been here for some time. *Christ for All* is a very small charity compared to some and any gifts we send are put to very good use in a very poor and needy area.

Here are some quotes from the recent newsletter as reported to the AGM of the Friends of CfA in this country. John Mark (some of you may remember his visit to St Michael's) has settled into his role of leader following the death of Azariah in May 2010, although there are some difficulties to be overcome. However, the affairs of the Christian Service Unit have been found to be in good order and passed the test of challenge by some who sought to claim authority over CSU work. There are still challenges before the courts, mainly affecting the organisation and local leadership of the American Pillar of Fire Church interests and ministries. Sadly these challenges caused the closure of the Nandigama children's home. *Some recent achievements include;*

Teachers Day is celebrated all over India and the teachers of the Shanti High School were honoured for their sacrificial services to children.

A further three bicycles have been provided for the pastors and evangelists.

Training of evangelists continues at the Asian school of evangelism with seven students attending a ten-month course.

Four young ladies have been given scholarships to enable them to pursue nursing training.

Bore Wells – one new deep bore well providing fresh water for 15 families has been sunk and three existing wells have been repaired.

We at St Michael's have raised enough money to pay for the provision of a new bore well, and hope to be able to report on the progress of this at a later date. The money was raised by holding an Indian supper (superbly cooked by Chris), a car treasure hunt, and the proceeds from a concert given by the Lydian singers.

Thank you to all of you who contributed to this in any way. Please continue to support the work in prayer, remembering especially John Mark and his team, as they continue to work in very difficult conditions.

There is now a new website showing the activities supported by CFA. It is a work in progress so please bear with them. You will find it at:

<http://christforallinandhrapradesh.com>

Ruth

Number 28 – the signs are good (see next page!)

. . . or at least I think so! At long last we managed to obtain approval for the external signs at Number 28 Hightown and they were erected on 26th September by Scorpio Signs of Hartford who also carried out the design. We hope that this will help to raise our profile even more in the town, although the best advertisement is you telling your friends about Number 28, and in particular that it is 'open house' there from 10am to 2pm every weekday.

- The number of activities in the building is growing. As well as the church office and the associated staff and management meetings we now have:
- Little Stars premature babies group
- Fit for Life healthy eating club
- A weekly morning prayer for the activities in Number 28
- A monthly prayer breakfast for the church as a whole
- A weekly free card making course intended for those who normally don't come to church
- 'Open house' every weekday
- 'Soup Tuesday' lunches
- A weekly stitching group
- Monthly youth activities
- Street Pastors
- Confirmation classes
- Kingdom Kids on Sunday mornings
- A magazine style service, 'Church@28' once a month
- Bereavement Support Group
- An increasing number of external bookings for diocesan and commercial events

If you want to know more about any of these events, please ask any member of staff, look on the website - www.at28.org – phone the office (01606 738005) or email admin@middlewichparishchurch.org.uk. The building still has plenty of scope for new bookings, so if you can think of something you would like to run in Number 28, please speak to Simon Drew or Pat Pugh.

There are still a number of things which need doing to complete the fitting out of the building, and we will be holding a working day at Number 28 on Saturday 12th November. If you want a bacon sandwich to give you strength, arrive at 9am. If not, come anytime up to 2pm and give as much time as you can. The ability to carry out simple DIY tasks is all that's required, but please bring your own tools if you have them.

Mike Reed

Number 28 now has its own signs— don't they look good?

More events at Number 28

5th November- Prayer Breakfast

5th November- PCC awayday (at home)

5th November- Finance Sub Committee (8 pm)

3rd December- Prayer Breakfast

8th December— Standing Committee (7.30 pm)



Number 28 is open Monday– Friday 10am– 2pm

Call in for coffee and a chat
Browse through the handmade cards and.....

Every Tuesday delicious homemade soup is served,

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.

Parish Registers for 2011

Baptisms

11th September	Jack Thomas Harrison
25th September	Isabella Grace Eaton
9th October	Amelia Amery-Stott

There were no weddings in October

Funerals

27th September	Lynn Such	Winsford
5th October	Walter Bowsher	Moss Drive
17th October	Shirley Bowsher	Alexandra Road

The Tapestry of My Life *By John Currie*

The tapestry of my life
Is there for all to see
Every knot and broken thread
Is a trial in life for me
Each and every wayward stitch
Every end that dangles free
Which record my many failures
Are there for all to see.

Each and every knotted thread
Is a beginning or an end.
These threads of many colours
Neither match nor blend.
Across the tapestry of my life
The stitches slowly wend
Will there be a picture
On the tapestry at the end?

Each trial and tribulation
Is recorded in the weave
All the joyful happy moments
Every instance that I grieve
They are added by the weaver
Who is God, so I believe
That every knot and hanging thread
Has a place within the weave.

The tapestry of my life
Doesn't make much sense to me
For it's only ever the back
Of the picture that I see
It's God alone who knows
What the end result will be
With the last knot of his weaving
He'll reveal his work to me.

Handbell Ringing French/ American style

Just before we returned to the UK, we went to Paris for David to do some family history research and to visit the American Church in Paris where they have several teams of handbell ringers. We were made



very welcome by the "advanced" team and when we say "advanced" we mean it - they were way above our league. The sound they produced was exceptional and they used a variety of techniques which we might be tempted to try! In addition to the bells everyone had some mallets and some hand chimes which added to the richness of the sound. They own two sets of American handbells, a set of "Dutch" handbells made by the Petit & Fritsen Foundry, 7 octaves of Malmark choir chimes and a small but growing set of Whitechapel handbells. There are adult handbell choirs at the beginning, intermediate and advanced levels, as well as a youth handbell choir and a children's handbell training choir. These groups involve a regular commitment to a weekly rehearsal, with each ensemble performing about once a month on Sunday morning.

The present building is on the South Bank on the Quai d'Orsay. It was the first American church to be established on foreign soil and is an interdenominational Protestant congregation with roots dating back to 1814. Since the end of World War II the American community in Paris has become



increasingly diverse and the number of English-speaking people of other nationalities has significantly increased. Today, no more than half of the regular worshippers at the Church are American, with the other half coming from some 40 different countries of origin. The number of denominational backgrounds is equally

diverse, so that now, more than ever before in its history, the American Church is an international and interdenominational community of faith.

We hope to visit them again next year and maybe attend a concert or a service (or even both) so if anyone feels like an "away day" to Paris - let us know!!!

Susan and David Hawkes

Byley Notices

Cleaning Rota for November



November 6th-13th	J. Wildman
20th-27th	A. Nichol: A. Gleave
December 4th-11th	P. Newton: R. Richardson



Whist Drive Dates

November 1st and 15th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Christmas Draw

As Christmas fast approaches we again call upon your generosity to ask for donations towards the purchase of the prizes for the Christmas Draw.

Please forward your contributions to Celia or Eleanor.
Your support is greatly appreciated.

Dates for your Diary

Remembrance Day Service - Sunday 13th November

Christmas Whist Drive - Tuesday 13th December

Carol Service - Friday 16th December

Carol Singing - Monday 19th December

Plough Sunday - Sunday 15th January

Byley in November 2011

6th November	Morning Prayer Readers	Tony Woode Anita Halman Jane Holmes Frank Walton
	Sidesman	
13th November (10.55am)	Communion Readers	Simon Hamill-Stewart Glenys Richardson John Grayling
	Sidesman	Glenys Richardson
20th November	Morning Praise Readers	Jacqui Briscoe Organist Frank Walton
	Sidesman	John Bennion
27th November	Communion Readers	Steve Broadfoot Jean Percival Anne Nichol
	Sideman	James Bennion

Byley Readers

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

4th December Celia Wilkinson
 Anita Halman



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

Middlewich and Byley Church Staff

Rev Simon Drew, Rector– Middlewich and Byley	01606 833440
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jeremy.coles@middlewichparishchurch.org.uk	
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Rev Thia Hughes, Curate	
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Other Middlewich Contacts

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Sue Ikin, Pastoral Care Worker

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110 West Ave., Rudheath, Northwich CW9 7ET

sikin@tiscali.co.uk

Pat Pugh, Office Manager (Mon-Thurs 10am-2pm)

Church Office, 28 Hightown, Middlewich
CW10 9AN

01606 738005

admin@middlewichparishchurch.org.uk

Steve Bailey, Middlewich Church Warden

4 Ladies Walk, Middlewich CW10 0BH

01606 834264

sbailey4590@aol.com

Linda Webber, Middlewich Church Warden

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

Mobile 07702 881928
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Christine Malkin, Middlewich PCC Secretary

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Stuart Barber, Middlewich PCC Treasurer

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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

richardsongables@aol.com

Anne Nichol, Byley PCC Secretary

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CW10 9LW

01606 836314

annenicol@btinternet.com

Frank Walton, Byley Church Warden

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01477 533284

frankwalton@fsmail.net

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

percival.yatehouse@googlmail.com

The Green, Yatehouse Lane, Byley, CW10 9NS

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!

If you have any articles or photographs for the next magazine, please would you e-mail them by **15th November** 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
Building work (extensions etc)
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HPC registered Chiropodist/Podiatrist

Cheshire Lasers Medical Clinic,
 75a Webbs Lane, Middlewich, CW10 9DS
 Tel: 01606 841255 Mobile: 07748712399

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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