

# **The Messenger**

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



**Watt's Mortuary Chapel, Compton, Surrey**

**(see page 12)**

**October 2011**

**50p**

## Service plan for October 2011

### ***2nd October 15th Sunday after Trinity***

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 ( <i>youth led service</i> )

### ***9th October 16th Sunday after Trinity***

9.15 am	Middlewich	Harvest Communion
11.00 am	Middlewich	Harvest Festival
11.00 am	Byley	Communion
2.30 pm	Middlewich	Baptism
6.30 pm	Middlewich	Evensong

### ***16th October 17th Sunday after Trinity***

9.15 am	Middlewich	Communion
11.00 am	Middlewich	Morning Praise
11.00 am	Byley	Harvest Festival
6.30 pm	Middlewich	Church @ 28
7.00 pm	Byley	Harvest Evensong

### ***23rd October Last Sunday after Trinity (half term)***

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

**30th October All Saints Sunday (half Term)**

9.15 am	Middlewich	Communion
11.00 am	Middlewich	Morning Praise
11.00 am	Byley	Morning Praise
6.30 pm	<b>United Reform Church</b>	<b>Joint Service</b>

**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 ...

Three boys were in the playground bragging about their fathers. The first boy said; 'My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a poem, and they give him £50'.

'That's nothing', said the second, 'my dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a song, and they give him £100'.

The third boy said, 'I beat you both – my dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money.'



*Simon Drew*

*I was tempted to change this to 'three girls'.....Ed.*

## LETTER FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Friends...

Two men were shipwrecked on a desert island. The minute they were washed up on the beach one of them started screaming and yelling, 'We're going to die! No food! No water! We're going to die!'

The second man simply propped himself against a palm tree and closed his eyes. 'What are we going to do?' the first man shouted at him.

'It's alright', the second man replied, 'I earn £100,000 per week'. The first man stopped, stared at him in disbelief and said; 'What difference does it make now! We're trapped. We're lost. We're going to die!'

'No', said the second man, 'you don't get it do you'. 'I'm a Christian, I earn £100,000 per week and I tithe on that £100,000 to my church – my pastor WILL find me!'

To clarify the point – tithing means giving 10% of your income to God, usually via your local church. But I don't intend to debate the rights and wrongs of tithing but rather to identify a popular problem among churches. Too often a small number of individuals, well paid – who take their giving seriously – keep a church's finances afloat. Loose one and the ship begins to sink. Now these people are important but the rest of the congregation can be lulled into a false sense of security.

Jesus was not enthused by big givers – but by sacrificial givers. In the story we call 'The Widows Mite' (see Mark 12:41-44 & Luke 21:1-4) Jesus points out a woman to his disciples. Other people have been putting big bucks into the offering bowl, often quite noticeably. She however quietly put a couple of small change coins into the offering. Jesus knew that she would feel the lack of those two coins more than the rich would miss their gold. She was giving sacrificially, over and above what the law required of her, because she loved her God.



## **That's real giving – Jesus said.**

I remember the day I bought Katy's engagement ring. It wasn't a particularly expensive ring but it was the most expensive thing I had bought up to that point. It also used up most of my savings (I had only been working for 3 months by then). But all that didn't matter. Why not? Because I loved her!

When St Paul wrote to the church at Corinth about giving he included this line: For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich (2 Cor. 8:9). The generous heart is a heart that loves, and a heart that loves the Lord Jesus Christ will be the most generous of all.

During the next month you will hear, and read, a lot about church finances as we make our annual review. Yes, you will be thanked for all that you have given and continue to give. Yes, you will be encouraged to keep giving and if possible give more to expand the work of the church here in Middlewich. But in the midst of all this I hope two things will remain true:

Firstly, the value of your giving should not be measured against what others give but simply against your own ability and motivation.

Secondly, that your giving will be a response of love to the Lord Jesus Christ – who for your sake became poor, and died, and rose again. Alleluia.

*Simon Drew*

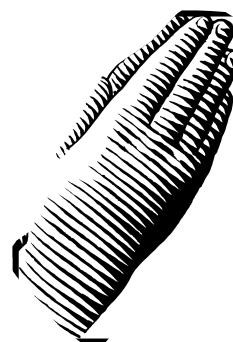
After church one Sunday morning a mother commented, 'The choir was awful this morning.' The father commented, 'The sermon was too long and quite boring'. Their seven year old daughter commented, 'But it wasn't a bad show for 10p!'.



**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.**



## Simon Says.....

During Church @28 on 18th September, our new rector, Simon Drew, was interviewed about his religious journey, and how he ended up in Middlewich.

Simon began by confessing that the patter of tiny feet had been heard in the rectory— the addition to the family was a cocker spaniel puppy called Poppy!

On to the matter in hand: Simon grew up in Torquay, and went to Liverpool University to study for a degree in Civil Engineering. He came from a Baptist background and found some of his assumptions shaken on his arrival in the North West. Firstly, he discovered that he didn't like the local Baptist church. Then, he noticed that there were some people at the university who seemed to be better Christians than him— and they weren't Baptists! Chief among these was a disabled Roman Catholic; Simon came to the important conclusion that denominations didn't matter.

Simon realised that God wanted him to do something, but he didn't know what. His family sensibly advised that he should get on with what he had been trained to do while waiting to find out, so he carried on being a civil engineer, while exercising his gift for leadership by leading his church home group and music group (wife Katy was an Anglican, so that had solved the denomination question). One day, the rector took him aside and suggested he consider entering the ministry. So this was what God wanted! Simon went to theological college at Nottingham, and Katy went to church by herself for two years, as Simon spent the first year 'church hopping' and the second year hospital visiting.

After ordination, our rector moved to four traditional parishes where the congregation knew they needed to do something to keep their churches alive. Simon worked with young people and their families, and the churches started to live again.

One day Katy noticed a local placement advertised, which started them thinking. As it was nearing a time of educational change for their daughters, they decided to spend twelve months looking for a new parish, and if nothing happened, then they were obviously intended to stay put.

Then they saw notice of a vacancy in Cheshire.....



## Bookstall

Someone once said “You can never have too many books.”

This seems true in our house – and probably for many of you reading this. How much pleasure we can get from holding a number of pieces of paper bound together, not just by glue and staples, but by the story that can be enjoyed, or the guidance that can be gained from them.

Why not visit the church bookstall and find a book that you might enjoy reading yourself, or giving to someone else (Christmas is coming!)

The bookstall has been running for about ten years now. It is stocked mainly on a sale-or-return basis, so the selection changes on, roughly, a four week cycle with 10% of the price going to the church. Orders can be taken for specific books, and if you know of a book which might be of interest to others, please let me know.

Two recent books are:

### **Eternity in their hearts, by Don Richardson.**

Christ came for all peoples and Richardson presents some clear evidence of that in his book, writing of many peoples waiting for centuries to hear the good news – including an Inca king, who found God in Machu Pichu. You will be amazed at these intriguing examples of how God uses redemptive analogies to bring all men to himself, bearing out the truth from Ecclesiastes (Ch3 v11) that God “has set eternity in the hearts of men.”

### **In my Father’s House, by Corrie ten Boom**

If you have read Corrie ten Boom’s extraordinary book “The Hiding Place” about her experiences as a Jewish prisoner of the Nazis (and – if not, why not try it?), you may like this book. “In my Father’s House” is the story of her early family life as a child growing up in the times before the persecution of the Jews began.

Both these books are available from the bookstall.

*Ruth*

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

## Finance at Middlewich – what next?

As reported in the September Messenger, our finances are looking much better when compared with this time last year, but we are still forecasting a deficit for this year. More information will be forthcoming during October, and the PCC will be discussing the current forecast and the budget for next year at their all day meeting on 5th November. This discussion will be informed by the following three guiding principles:

**Destroy the annual deficit:** A growing church such as St Michael's cannot sustain a situation where all our current expenditure is not paid for out of current income: we aim to finish this year without having to draw down on reserves for routine expenditure.

**Continue to give to Charities:** Our charitable activities this year will help us to maintain our giving at 10% of voluntary income this year. In future years we would like to increase this.

**Expand youth work, pastoral care and community links:** There are many opportunities to serve church members and the wider community better, and to bring them the love of God through work in Church, Number 28 and elsewhere: in future years we would like to apply more funds to these areas.

Please join with us in praying that God will enable us to do everything He guides us into, while still matching our expenses and our income.

*Simon Drew:* Rector

*Mike Reed:* PCC Vice Chairman

*Stuart Barber:*  
Treasurer

### 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.**

## CMS Paraguay

Our charity focus for the final quarter of this year October to December is CMS Paraguay and Ed & Marie Brice will be bringing us their latest news during our morning services at St Michael's on Sunday 20 November.

Their August link letter included news of the 31st anniversary of the settling of the people of Sombrero Piri and a special service which will include a number of baptisms. Please join them in praying this will provide an opportunity for others to commit or recommit themselves to Christ.

At the end of June they made a special trip to El Estibo to visit lay workers and pass on copies of the new Enxet Bible study manual (the language of the indigenous people in the Gran Chaco region of Western Paraguay).

You may recall that we raised several thousand pounds towards the building of the San Mateo Church in Rio Verde and Sophie Hirst who was in Paraguay represented St Michael's at the opening of the church in 2009. We look forward to hearing an update relating to San Mateo and further news from Ed & Marie in November, but in the meantime please focus on the following prayer points:

- 1) Thanks for the new Enxet Bible encounter manual and for those testing it.
- 2) For lay workers Ceferino, Gilberto and Carlos in El Estribo, Antonio and Zuni in Rio Verde.
- 3) For Agustin's contact with the four congregations in Sombrero Piri.
- 4) For the Mission Paraguay volunteers and the work amongst children.
- 5) For the support for San Mateo from the churches in Asuncion now and in the future.
- 6) For safety in travel and wisdom in dealing with mechanics.
- 7) Ed & Marie's programme of visits whilst in the UK.

Opportunities to fundraise for CMS Paraguay will appear in future notice sheets.

**if anyone has any Paraguayan articles which could brighten our window display at Number 28 please contact Linda on 861626 or 07702 881928.**

**Future events:**

**Tuesday, 11 October**

Our Harvest meeting. Please come and join us at Number 28 for a Harvest Hot Pot Lunch. Lunch will be served from 11.45am to 1.30pm. Payment is by donation. All offers of help from members would be appreciated.

If you have any items for 'Save the Family', (clothes, toiletries, household items, toys, Christmas cards or stationery) please bring them to this meeting or give me a call on 832198.

**Wednesday, 12 October**

Middlewich Deanery 'Quiet Afternoon' will be held at St Wilfrid's Davenham at 2.00pm. This is always a lovely service of quiet contemplation and prayer, with an opportunity to meet and share fellowship with other deanery members. Please contact Pam if you require transport. (832286)

**Sunday, 16 October**

The enrolment of a new Mothers' Union branch at Whitegate parish church at 9.30am. You may wish to attend this service if you have family or friends in Whitegate. Present: MU Diocesan Chaplain, Rev'd James Abrose, MU President, Angela Klabou and Deanery Leader, Diana Bancroft.

**Tuesday, 8 November**

Monthly meeting: On her return from France, Susan will be giving a talk on "Travelling back to my roots". Lunch at 12.30pm followed by the meeting at 1.30pm at Number 28.

## Thursday, 17 November

Diocesan Council at Northwich 9.30am – 1.00pm.

## Tuesday, 29 November

Archdeaconry Advent Service at St Mary & St Helen, Neston at 2.00pm. Please let Pam know if you would like to attend this service.

### *Mothers Union Sunday Rota*

Duty	October	November
Intercessions	Susan Hawkes	Pauline Ashley
Banner	Angela Tempest	Pam Dunning
Escorts	Pam Dunning & Merle Ikin	Pauline Davies & Laura Drinkwater
Offertory	Pam Jackson & Thelma Ashley	Vi Neale-Smith & Susan Hawkes

### 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

## **Watt's Mortuary Chapel**

Watts Chapel is a Grade 1 listed Chapel situated in the lovely village of Compton in Surrey.

The Chapel was designed by Mary Watts, wife of Internationally renowned Victorian artist, George Frederic Watts who funded the project. Both are now buried at the cemetery, as are many of the residents who helped Mary decorate this beautiful Chapel.

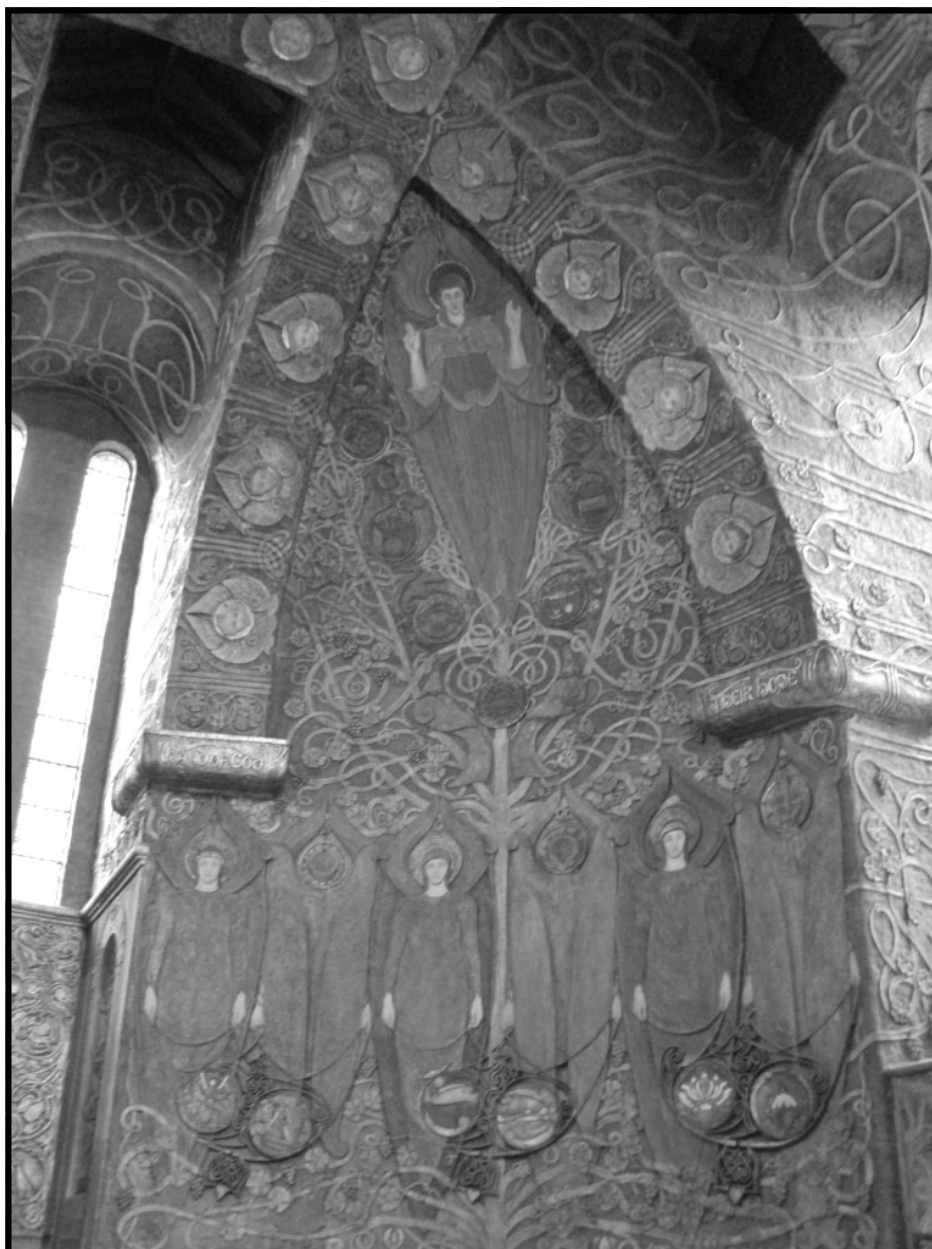
The Chapel is a wonderful fusion of influences, including Art Nouveau, Celtic, Romanesque and Egyptian. It is built on a grassy mound and the deep red terracotta brickwork contrasts with striking effect against the cemetery landscape.

Inside, the brightly coloured designs and symbols representing the tree of life, fill the dome shaped interior.

Whilst closely managed by Mary Watts, the decoration of the Chapel was a community affair, with more than seventy villagers taking part.

Entering a mortuary Chapel, one might expect to find a sombre interior. Here swirling tendrils – roots of the Tree of Life – float around the circular walls, like the tentacles of an octopus in a deep dark sea, engulfing the mourner (or visitor) while organic highlights glisten above.

Turn on the lights, and in a kaleidoscope of reds, blues, greens and golds, cherubim and seraphim beckon, their arms raised, drawing one's eye heavenwards to the Eternal Circle, the Sun of Righteousness, in the centre of the wooden cross-ridged roof. Subdued natural light filters through the four pairs of stained glass windows and their six-foot reveals. Although the circular drum is only 13 ½ inches thick, these window reveals create the impression of deep medieval castle walls.



# Operation Christmas Child (the shoeboxes are back!)

## *Fill a child's life with joy this Christmas!*

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project, bringing joy into the lives of under-privileged children since 1990. Last year, nearly 1.2 million shoeboxes were packed with gifts and goodies and sent from the UK to children who need them most in some of the toughest parts of the world.

If you would like to join in, this is what you do:

- 1) Find an empty shoebox and wrap the lid and the box separately in Christmas wrapping paper.
- 2) Decide if your gift is for a boy or a girl, and for what age (the categories are 2-4years, 5-9years and 10-14years).
- 3) Fill your box with gifts (there is a list of ideas below).
- 4) Make your donation of at least £2.50. Please do this online if possible, or complete the donation form on the leaflet and attach cash or cheque. Put this in the shoebox on top of the contents. Secure the lid with a rubber band.
- 5) Take your shoebox to church by 6th November. Margaret English will collect all of them and take them to the drop-off point.

This year there is a new service. If you donate online and put your unique reference code in your shoebox, then *Samaritan's Purse* will e-mail you with details of where your shoebox actually went.

### Gift Ideas

**Toys**....Soft toy, finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, small musical instrument. For boys, trucks and cars, for girls, dolls, clip-on earrings etc.

**Educational Supplies**....Felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, colouring book, notepad, picture or puzzle book, chalk, pencil-case, stickers, etc.

**Hygiene Items**.....Toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar of soap, flannel etc.

**Sports items**.....Tennis ball, skipping rope, baseball hat, stop watch, sweat bands, swim goggles, toy medals.

**Other items**.....Sweets (sell by date to be at least March of the following year), gloves, scarf, sunglasses, hat, bangles, necklaces etc.

### **Not to be included**

**No food** especially chocolate (but you can include non-chocolate sweets as stated)

**No medicine** or vitamins of any kind.

**No war related items:** Toy guns, soldiers or knives of any kind.

**No clothing** other than that listed under *gift ideas*.

**No fragile items:** Glass containers, mirrors.

**No liquids** including blow bubbles, shampoo, bubble bath, toiletry sets or aerosols.

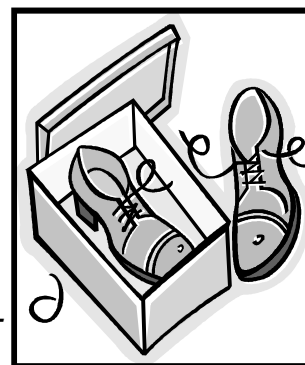
**No dangerous items:** Sharp objects, scissors or razors.

**No novels.**

**Nothing of a political nature.**

**No hand-knitted or stuffed toys without a CE mark.**

*If you are unable to bring your box to church, ring Margaret, and she will collect it.*



## **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

28th August

Eva May Guest

4th September

Martha Louise Nicholl

## Weddings

9th September

Jonathan Rice and Rachel Nadin

## Funerals

17th August

Marina Brough

West Street

28th August

Joan Braithwaite

Moss Drive

9th September

Agnes McNab

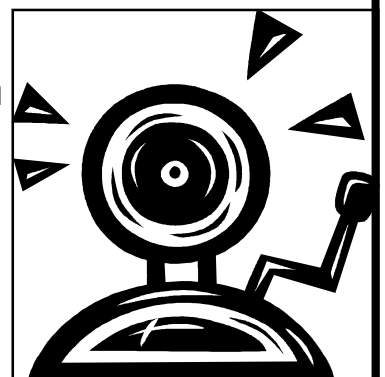
Beechfield Drive

### 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?

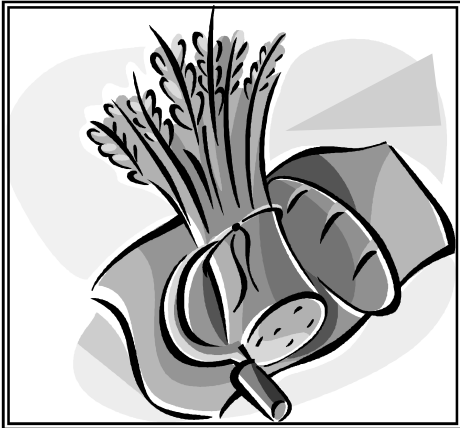
**If not, please will you speak to Pat!**

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



## Harvest at Byley

**Harvest Festival, Sunday 16th October**



**11.00 am.....a Service of  
Thanksgiving with Gifts**

**Harvest Lunch**

**12.30 pm** in the Village Hall.

**Why not join us for a 3 Course Lunch?**

Adults- £10.00, Children under 12- £5.00

Tickets must be booked in advance.

Call Bruce on 01606 835253, or Celia on 01606 832313

Bring your own drinks and glasses.

**7.00 pm..... Evening Service**

We will also be joined by Middlewich Young Farmers Club for their  
Chairperson's Sunday

And who  
invite you to join them for refreshments in the Village Hall  
afterwards.

## Byley Notices

### Cleaning Rota for October



Oct 2nd	V Farrow
Oct 9th-16th	J Percival
Oct 23rd-30th	R Bennion



### Whist Drive Dates

October 18th (Harvest Whist Drive)  
1st November

Both at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

### Byley Players Autumn Production



#### **Busybody**

A comedy

October 13th, 14th, 15th  
At 7.30 pm in Byley Village Hall

Tickets just £6.00

**Call 01606 835582 to place your booking**

***Don't forget to check out the new website...[www.at28.org](http://www.at28.org)***

# Byley in October 2011

2nd October	Morning Prayer Reading Sidesman	Jacqui Briscoe ano Organist Alan Percival
9th October	Communion Reading Sidesman	Thia Hughes Glenys Richardson Jane Holmes Anita Halman
16th October	Harvest Reading Sidesman	Simon Drew John Percival Jonathon Trelawny Wilf Lomas

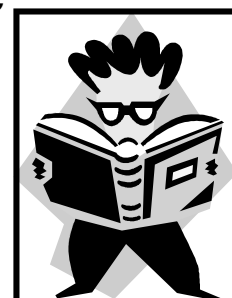
**There will also be a Harvest Evensong at 7.00 pm on 16th October**

23rd October	Communion Reading Sidesman	Liz Woode James Bennion Anne Nichol Eleanor Winnett
30th October	Morning Praise Reading Sidesman	Simon Hamill-Stewart Celia Wilkinson Jean Percival

## Byley Readers

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

6th November  
Anita Halman  
Jane Holmes



# Middlewich and Byley Church Staff

**Rev Simon Drew, Rector– Middlewich and Byley** 01606 833440  
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**Rev Liz Woode, Curate & Tony Woode, Reader**  
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& Mike Reed, Middlewich PCC Vice Chairman**  
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## Other Middlewich Contacts

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**Anne Hardy, Organist**

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***And Finally.....If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.***

If you have any articles or photographs for the next magazine, please would you e-mail them by **5th October** to the Church Office [admin@middlewichparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@middlewichparishchurch.org.uk) . You can also place articles in the pigeon hole for the Church Office.

**The editor is going away on 15th, so the magazine needs to be finished before then!**

Alternatively, you can e-mail direct to Margaret English at: [margaretetlm@hotmail.com](mailto:margaretetlm@hotmail.com).

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