PARISH PROFILE

FOR THE BENEFICE OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, MIDDLEWICH AND ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BYLEY

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WELCOME LETTER FROM THE PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Thank you for reading this profile and we trust that God will make clear in your heart, mind and spirit whether this is a post for which you should apply.

St Michael and All Angels is the sole Anglican parish church in Middlewich and St John's the only Church in Byley. You'll find us to be a friendly, supportive and enthusiastic bunch, where people of all ages and backgrounds are welcomed and valued. Offering both beautiful rural and busy town settings for ministry, we are united by a desire to see new people become Christians and our Church communities grow in faith, love and numbers.

We are a broad Church, with the majority of members being either of central or open evangelical tradition. We have a very wide range of worship style preferences in our congregations and both celebrate and treasure this diversity.

We know that compared to many Churches we are well resourced and have so many things to be thankful for. However, we are wholly realistic about the challenges we face and the need to urgently address the areas in which we have declined. Post Covid we have encountered a number of challenges. Alongside the obvious scope to grow and move forward, we also need to continue a process of healing, restoration and renewal.

We stand at a crossroads and need the right leader to help us hear God's voice and navigate the way ahead.

Are you someone who loves unlocking massive potential?

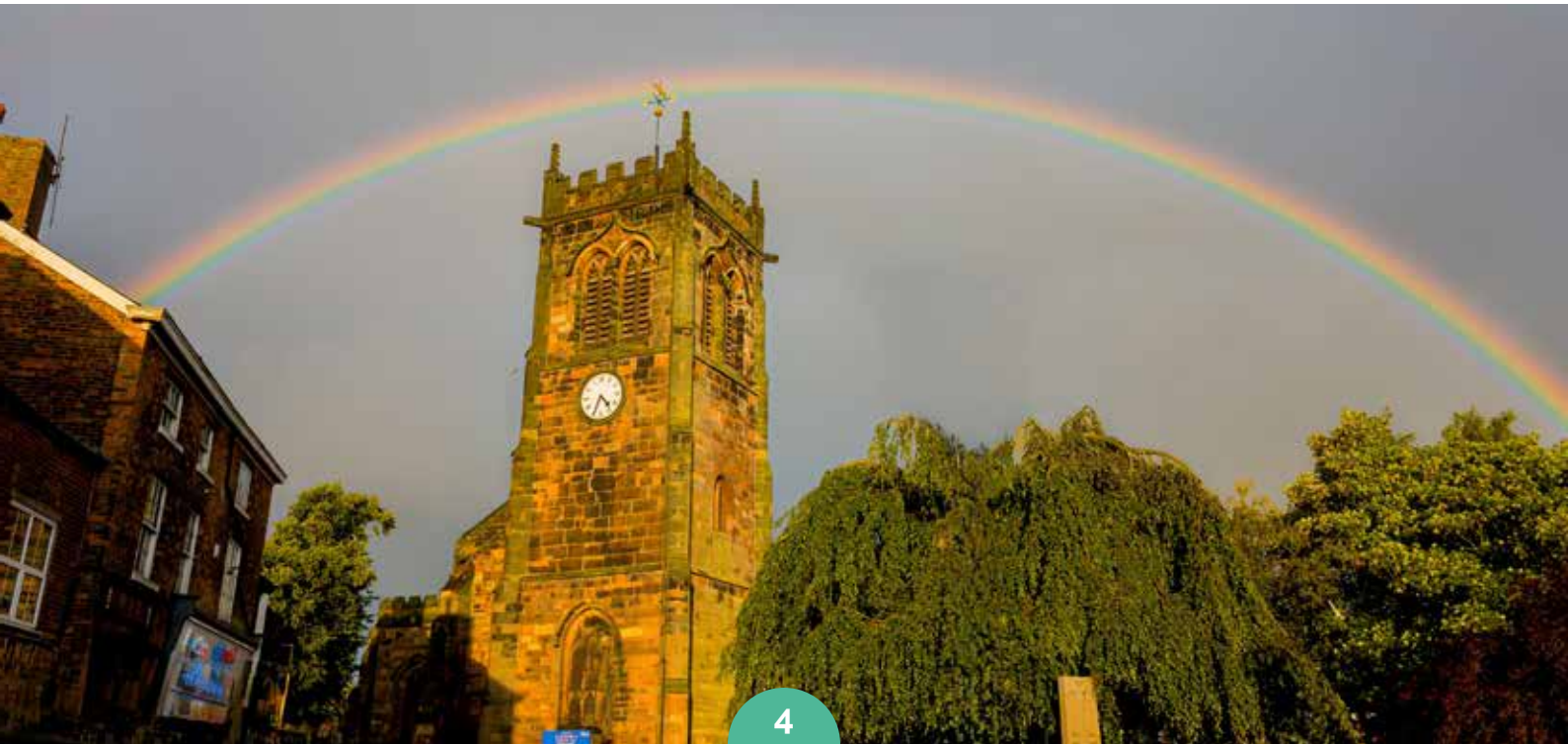
Do you enjoy working with enthusiastic and committed people? Do you relish a wide breadth of Anglican worship styles? Do you want to lead a group who along with their worries and weaknesses, love to support each other, have fun and laugh together? Are you confident that if we all work together, the Holy Spirit can lead us to a new season of exciting growth and transformation?

If the answers to these questions are yes, then we would love to hear from you.

This has the potential to be a deeply fulfilling ministry opportunity for the right person, female or male. We promise to offer you our ongoing love, prayer, time, support and loyalty as we seek together to ensure that the Christian faith in Middlewich and Byley flourishes for years and years to come.

Ian Jeffery and Robert Reed (Middlewich)

Elaine Cross and James Bennion (Byley)



THE PARISH

Our Team

We have a gifted and committed team of people who offer a broad range of different skills.

The team includes an Assistant Curate, licensed as a self supporting ordained minister (SSOM), several clergy with Bishops permission to officiate, a reader emeritus, a licenced pastoral worker, an occasional worship leader, a paid office manager, three Church wardens in Middlewich and two in Byley. The two Churches each have their own PCC.

Safeguarding

Both St Michael's and St John's accept their responsibilities for the safeguarding of staff, volunteers, church members and visitors. We strive to ensure that everyone feels safe.

The PCC has a desire to increase knowledge of best practice and make sure we apply this in every area of Church life. We have become increasingly aware that we must, as an imperative, guard against complacency and would need an incumbent who can help us continue on this journey.

We adhere to the Church of England's national safeguarding policies and procedure. The PCC have adopted the recommended policies and procedures of the Diocese of Chester with regard to safeguarding. New members of the PCC, children's work team and pastoral care team are all required to undertake safeguarding training and have a DBS check. Safeguarding remains as a standing item on the PCC agenda at both Churches.

OUR NEW RECTOR IS SOMEONE WHO WILL BE...

(IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER!)

- An imperfect human being - like the rest of us, who wants to serve God to the best of their ability
- A Catalyst! We need a man or woman, whose love for God, zest for life and desire to see the Kingdom grow, acts as an inspiration to us all.
- Warm, engaging and approachable with the ability to make connections with all kinds of people both inside and outside of the Church
- An ideas person, with the courage to try new things and the skills to galvanise a congregation of wide and varied talents
- Willing and receptive to the Holy Spirit's power and guidance, providing appropriate teaching so individual's gifts can be developed and flourish

- A strategic thinker who can develop a pathway to help us grow in faith, spiritual depth and numbers
- A preacher who loves bringing scripture alive and provides teaching that is applicable to everyday life.
- A unifying figure, who with thoughtfulness and empathy can help us continue on our journey of loving and respecting each other whilst navigating topics such as LLF, recognising the diverse perspectives within our church family and leadership team.
- A pastor with heart for their people, who will journey alongside us, get to know us, pray with us and deepen our relationship with Jesus.

WHERE YOUR LEADERSHIP CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

We need direction in the following areas;

Mission, Evangelism and Prayer

Lead us in a process of renewal, rebuilding and revitalisation of our mission and evangelism strategy as well as encouraging us to persistently pray for our community and each other.

Revitalising Young Peoples Work and Supporting Musical Ministry

We would love our Rector to spearhead a new approach to the way we work with young people in the Parish and also ensure our breadth of music is maintained. To so do, additional staff support may be needed in due course and the PCC supports this principle. The Godly wisdom and guidance of our new Rector can help us discern the best way forward.

Managing our Team and Developing New Leaders

We have wonderful people who with appropriate encouragement, support and direction can offer inspiring ministry to the Church. We also acknowledge that we want to grow younger! Over time our new leader will need to develop the gifts of others and add to the team.

Strengthening Communication

We know the importance of strong and effective messaging both internally and externally. And we know we need to get better at both! We want to work with you to address the shortcomings in making the most of our website, social media, publicity and communications.

St John's, Byley

Byley and its people are so important to all of us. Having sadly lost many faithful members in recent times, we need to ensure St John's sustainability as a place of worship. There is significant scope for different and distinctive forms of ministry in this beautiful rural setting.

Developing the Outreach of Number 28

Whilst already doing a great work, we are open to new ideas and leadership on how to increase our volunteer base, expand and reimagine the missional reach of this important hub.

Safeguarding

We are totally committed to ensuring a safe Church for all and require a Rector with the skills and focus to ensure an excellent safeguarding culture is embedded throughout the parish.

BUILDINGS

St Michael & All Angels, Middlewich

St Michael & All Angels has stood as a place of worship in Middlewich since at least the late 12th century.

The Church dates largely from the 14th Century, has been much re ordered and extended over the years and is a Grade II* building of some robust beauty. It holds a special place in the heart of many in the town.

It is centrally located at the end of the High Street and also on the junction of the A54 and A533 roads, making it a prominent landmark in Middlewich with significant passing traffic.

Considering the age of the Church it is generally in good condition but there are inevitably areas of concern with buildings of this age and always new issues to address. The advantages of such a large and beautiful building are obvious, but there are also some frustrations re a lack of toilet, high quality kitchen area and the relative inflexibility of so many pews. A project team has previously created some initial options for redevelopment.

The Churchyard is not in use and has been reordered to remove standing gravestones: it is maintained by the town council. We have access to and use of the grounds.

BUILDINGS

St John's Byley

At Byley the smaller, but well preserved church, stands near to the centre of the village.

It was built in 1847 and is a Grade II listed building. The Churchyard is still in use and is kept in good condition and contains a number of Commonwealth war graves of airmen stationed at the adjacent airfield who were killed during WWII. When the boiler failed in 2024, an efficient and eco-friendly heating system was installed, using wall-mounted infra-red heaters. It complies with all the latest requirements on emissions and net zero.

BUILDINGS

Number 28

Number 28 is located on Hightown, directly opposite St Michael's and it takes about twenty seconds to get from the front door of one building to the other, separated only by a road.

It is a two storey building of circa 2000 square feet. It was bought by the Church in 2008 in dilapidated condition and underwent total renovation, opening in 2010. The renovation transformed Number 28 into a superb facility which has been much used, enjoyed and valued in the fifteen years since.

At ground floor level it comprises a street fronting café area, accessible ground floor toilet, meeting room and large commercial kitchen.
At first floor level (accessed via a staircase with built in stair lift) there is the Church office with ample space for four people to work in, a landing area which provides additional storage space, a very large multi purpose room, walk in store room and further toilet.

The building generates some welcome room hire income to different community groups. It is also used to host numerous Church meetings including the weekly staff meeting, PCC, standing committee and too many others to list! It is also the base for a lot of Church socials and informal get togethers. There is more information about how we use 28 for mission later in this document.

Buildings Group

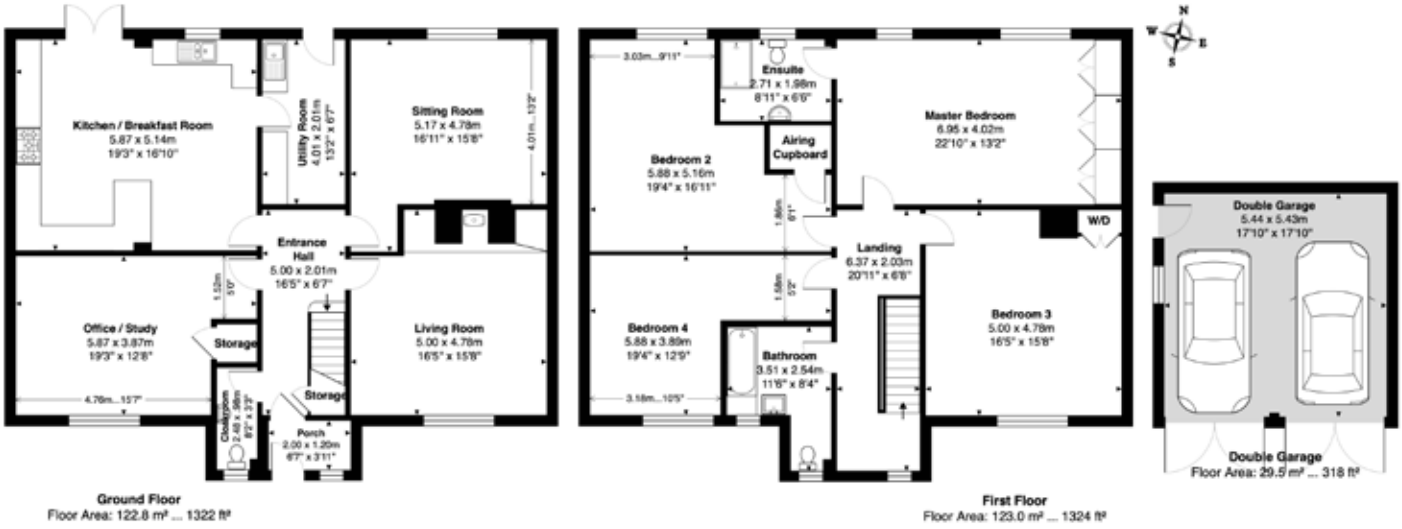
The Buildings and Maintenance Group oversee the care of both the Church and No28, meeting regularly.

The Rectory

The Rectory, called Poplar Fell is a modern house that was built around the year 2000 and was acquired by the Diocese of Chester in 2008.

It is located in a private road of just three houses and accordingly has a high degree of seclusion and privacy. It is located ten minutes walk from the Church and Number 28.

The last two incumbents have greatly enjoyed their time in this lovely home. We have an estate agent in the congregation if you want a full sales pitch as to its features and benefits!



POPLAR FELL, NANTWICH ROAD, MIDDLEWICH, CHESHIRE, CW10 9HG

Approximate Gross Internal Area: 275.4 m² ... 2964 ft² Includes Double Garage

Whilst every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy, all measurements are approximate, not to scale.
This floor plan is for illustrative purposes only and should be used as such by any prospective tenant or purchaser.
Floor plan produced by Leon Sancese from Green House EPC 2025. Copyright.

SERVICES AT ST MICHAEL'S, MIDDLEWICH

Sunday Services

9:15am – Communion (Common Worship, Order 1, with a robed choir)

11:00am – Contemporary All Age Service (1st Sunday) / Morning Praise (2nd & 4th Sundays) / Communion (3rd Sunday)

5th Sunday Evening – Ecumenical Service (Middlewich Churches Together)

3:30pm - Communion, once a month, with refreshments and social time afterwards

Weekday Services

Tuesday, 10am – Healing Service
Thursday, 9:30am – Communion

Detail re Middlewich 9:15am service

This is a service that has had enduring popularity over many years.

It takes the form of a sung Eucharist from Common Worship with a SATB robed choir of around fourteen people. It has been a particular delight to see three teenagers join the choir in recent times. There is a biblically based sermon and a predominant use of traditional hymns but also some modern songs.

After the service refreshments are always served and this forms a good crossover with people who are arriving for the 11am. The congregation at the 9:15am service is generally of an older profile and the service is normally concluded by 10:30am.

Typical attendance 48, including three teenagers.

Detail re Middlewich 11am service

This service lasts for about an hour and has been a fixture in the Church calender since its introduction in late 2001.

The music is provided by the Worship Group (singers, keyboard and guitars) and the songs are mainly from the 'Songs of Fellowship' books. On the rare occasions the Worship Group is not available we use videos with music and lyrics on the screen.

There is always prayer ministry offered during parts of Worship time and the style is relaxed and informal, with no robes. Bible readings and prayers are carried out by members of the congregation and there is a Biblically based sermon / all age talk. There is a popular children's play zone at the back of Church for babies and toddlers. Age appropriate teaching is provided via Kingdom Kids in Number 28. Whilst there is a large age range present, this is the service that typically attracts more families with young children. Refreshments are served after the service.

Typical attendance 43, including children.

Messy Church

Historically Cledford Primary School was used as a base for Messy Church at the end of the school day.

More recently Messy Church takes place at St Michael's usually linked to school holidays or a festival like Easter, Harvest or Christmas. It uses craft, games, songs and food to engage with families in a creative and fun way.

Church@28

This pioneering service ran with great success from 2011 to 2020 on a monthly basis on a Sunday evening.

It regularly attracted 50 people and on occasions more. It was more successful in attracting typically nonchurch attending people. A combination of the pandemic and increased personal commitments of the service leader has restricted the service to just a handful of appearances since 2020.

There is some scope for the format to be relaunched. In the most recent services live streaming has been experimented with and despite some technological teething problems, it proved popular in drawing in a wide audience.

GROUPS (MIDDLEWICH)

Home and Study Groups

We hope you like this cartoon picture. It is what artificial intelligence thinks a Bible study house group in Middlewich looks like!

These provide a space for fellowship, discipleship, and spiritual growth. Meeting in three different locations we gather together for Bible study, prayer, and mutual encouragement.

Music

Music is so important to the large majority of St Michael's members with great variety on offer.

The robed choir has a rehearsal once a week, lead at the 9:15am service and also perform at confirmations, bereavement services, weddings and some funerals. The worship group continues to serve the 11am congregation and occasionally at other events. The same team also provide PA and words projection.

The festival choir started in 2008 and developed a particularly strong record in attracting people without a Church connection and subsequently developing their faith. It includes members from St Michaels and other Churches in Middlewich. Recently, it was great to see 16 people on stage at the 2025 Folk and Boat festival.

Church Socials

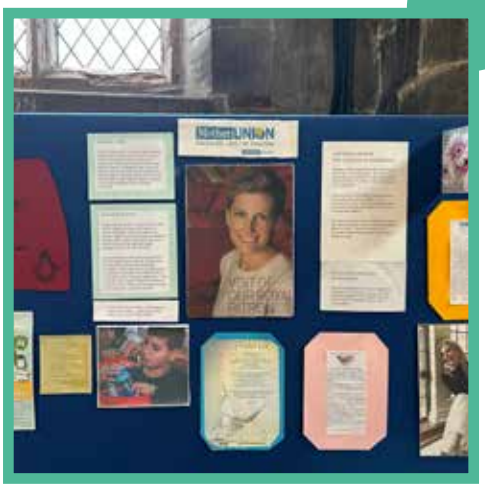
Open to all with examples including harvest suppers, Shrove Tuesday pancakes and games nights

28 Art Group

Three hours of art and so popular there are no spare tables left at present!
A time of fellowship and wonderful artistic creativity.

Craft and Chat

A monthly gathering at 28 on a Wednesday afternoon. The title indicates what goes on here!



Mothers Union

An active group with guest speakers, outings, fundraising events, coffee mornings, community projects and a regular newsletter.

SMAART (Hand Bell Ringing Team)

A committed team who meet regularly for practice. Regularly giving concerts and an annual Carol Service at local retirement community Willowmere.

Middlewich Tower Bell Ringers

The bells for church services and special occasions. Recently ringing in mourning for the death of Queen Elizabeth II and for the Coronation of King Charles III.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN (MIDDLEWICH)

In Service Provision

On a Sunday morning at the 11am service, three times a month we offer Kingdom Kids, where ten minutes into the service children go across the road to Number 28 for age related activities.

The uptake for this is low compared to previous years, but we are very grateful for the team continuing to prepare and offer this service to our young people.

There is also at the back of Church a large area that is dedicated to providing pre school children (and sometimes a bit older!) an area for playing with toys, drawing and reading. This has proven very popular with our families with younger children.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN (MIDDLEWICH)

Smilers

Running in term times on a Monday between 1:15pm and 3pm this is an early years children's club, for children under five.

It is a time for playing, singing, art, craft and refreshments. We see this as a vital ministry as it establishes some families within the Christian faith and introduces the Church and its members to others. A dedicated team of volunteers run the group.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN (MIDDLEWICH)

Schools

We are very grateful for the opportunity to provide assemblies and RE lessons in local schools and welcome many to our Church building for different events and festivals.

Examples of the latter being the town wide Christmas lights switch on and significant contributions to our mission activities at the Folk and Boat Festival.

We have active links to Cledford Primary (see mission section), Middlewich Primary, Wimboldsley Primary, St Mary's Primary School and Byley Primary School.
Our previous incumbent also developed in more recent times a faith club at Middlewich High School.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN (MIDDLEWICH)

Jesus Rocks

Christmas 2024 saw St Michael's initiate this project in two primary schools and we would like to do more activities like this.

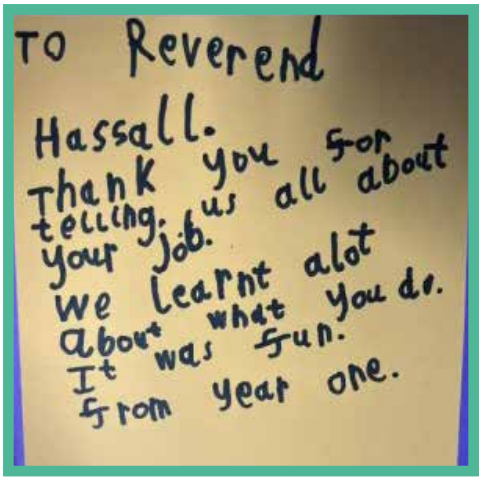
The Jesus rock is a stone which has been painted to look like a swaddled baby Jesus. Children were asked to design a manger for baby Jesus to rest in. Families then posted pictures of the manger on social media and were also invited to bring their Jesus Rock to our crib service on Christmas eve.

MISSION, EVANGELISM AND ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS (MIDDLEWICH)

Revd Julie Hassall at Cledford Primary School

Julie Hassall is our Assistant Curate, licensed as a self supporting ordained minister (SSOM). Julie is based at Cledford Primary School, where she is a teaching assistant. Her ordination was a call to continue working alongside those in her work setting. It was a call to go deeper into a personal relationship with God, in order that God's love, forgiveness and restoration might be experienced by others both within and beyond our gathered setting.

Christopher Adlington, School Principal recently offered his perspective on Julie's ministry to date;



"Having Julie working as a teaching assistant/minister in secular employment at Cledford brings a unique blend of compassion, moral guidance, and emotional support to the classroom and wider school setting. Her presence positively influences the school environment, offering a steady, ethical foundation that benefits both pupils and staff. By embodying values of kindness, patience, and integrity, Julie helps foster a nurturing and inclusive atmosphere, where children not only learn academically but also grow in character and empathy. I hope that our partnership continues long into the future and continues to grow and develop over time."

We would expect our new incumbent to work with, mentor and fully support Julie in her vocation. We believe this positions us well to advance God's Kingdom, as we have witnessed that it complements, rather than competes with traditional ministries.

Number 28

Number 28 facilitates much of our direct mission to the community and we are open to the public between 10am and 1pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. With the exception of Beth, who is the paid office manager, Number 28 relies completely on the volunteers, to whom we are hugely grateful. We hold a Cheshire East 5 food hygiene rating and are a registered warm place hub.

Its main purpose is to be a place where people can meet and we actively encourage those who do not normally come to church (and those who do!) to drop in, have a coffee with us and get to know who we are, what we do and what we believe. Soup, toasties and sandwiches are served on Tuesdays. On other days a variety of hot drinks and home baked snacks are available. Payment for food and drink is on a donation basis and not compulsory.

Alpha Course

Alpha was relaunched post Covid. Taking the format of small groups between four and eight people, the course runs at least once a year. The Holy Spirit day takes place at Foxhill, the Diocesan retreat house and has been a real highlight. New friends have been made, a relationship with Jesus gained and an ongoing Bible study group formed.

Pastoral Care

We see pastoral care as an integral part of ministry and through the years it has unquestionably been a very effective and key part of our ministry. We long for people see our faith in action as we show care, concern and pray whenever possible for people in both our Church and wider community, encountering a wide range of situations. We have a licensed pastoral worker and wider team who contribute to this area. We are active participants in Middlewich Good Neighbours.

Middlewich & District Foodbank

Part of the Trussell Trust Food Bank network, this is a work that many Church members from different fellowships have been involved with through the years. This vital work links closely with many schools and is a good example of the wider community working together. There is potential for our new Rector to be involved as a trustee.

Middlewich Folk and Boat (FAB) Festival

This annual event celebrates canal culture and folk music. It's a community event with lots of live music, canal boat displays and family friendly activities. The festival is always held on the Father's Day weekend in June.

Given the centrality of the Church and Number 28 in the town, we have always seen this as a key opportunity to be an active presence and combine having fun, being welcoming and making Jesus known. Number 28's cafe is in full swing over the whole weekend and always does excellent trade - the full breakfast is cracking!

Through the years we have provided a vast array of different events and missional ideas. These have included puppet shows, live music, a BBQ, beat the goalie, concerts and art exhibitions in Church. In the last two years the Church building has hosted a Christian themed Mini Golf course. We don't think we have spotted the next Rory McIlroy quite yet but sometimes great things start with small beginnings so we live in hope!

Mini
Golf

1
Jesus calls his disciples...

3

6
Easter: New Life for All...

The Bible Labyrinth

Coinciding with the FAB festival, this really is, by any measure, an extraordinary mission event. The scale is so vast and the preparation so significant that we can only hold it every few years but wow, the end result is something special. The Church is transformed (and we do mean transformed!) into a mega multi-sensory walk through the Bible experience. We invite a large number of local schools to contribute to the experience with the aim for the whole town to enjoy. It weaves together a maze of tunnels, caves and open spaces depicting some of the main Bible stories and themes and fills the entire church building. The labyrinth has taken place in 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 and in the peak year got 3000 visitors in just 2.5 days!

THE BIG STORY LABYRINTH
WELCOME

of
Gethseman

alpha course
alpha
SMILERS
SMILERS
SMILERS
MONDAYS
BLOG
BLOG
CHURCH @28
CHURCH @28

Ecumenical Relationships

There is a strong history of all the Churches in Middlewich cooperating, working together and meeting regularly. Middlewich has Roman Catholic, United Reformed and Methodist congregations. In addition Middlewich Community Church, known as MCC, is a very active fellowship.

The leaders of the Churches often meet and examples of joint initiatives include 5th Sunday joint services, week of prayer for Christian unity, the annual remembrance service and a joint service together on the main stage at the annual folk and boat festival. The Good Friday walk of witness is a highlight of the year for many and demonstrates mission, fellowship, witness and the tight ecumenical bonds in action.

FINANCE
ST. MICHAEL'S MIDDLEWICH

We are very grateful to everyone who so generously gives of their financial resources and time in support of the ministry of our Church and Number 28 and its many and varied activities. By way of information our parish share is paid on time and in full every month and we have Card Readers in Church and Number 28.

Income – main sources

- **Voluntary Income** (60 Standing Orders, 11 Pledge Envelopes, Collections and other giving, Gift Aid).
- **Parish Activites** including fundraising events (Plant sale Folk & Boat Festival, Christmas fair), Weddings and Funerals.
- **Number 28** (Sales, donations and room hire).
- **Investment Income.**

Expenditure – main items

- **Ministry Costs** (Parish share, ordained staff expenses, rectory costs, lay staff and associated costs).
- **Parish Activities** including ministry activities, occasional offices (Assigned fees and disbursements), office costs) and donations to our supported Charities.
- **Church Building** (including utilities, insurance and maintenance).
- **Number 28** (including utilities, insurance and maintenance).

Charities

In 2025, the supported charities are St. Luke's Hospice, Crisis, UCB (United Christian Broadcasters), and Hope for Justice. The amounts donated are from fundraising activities and Church Funds approved by the PCC (in 2024, this was £2,200 divided equally between the charities). Our ambition is to donate 10% of our Voluntary Income.

Stewardship Campaign

This informs the congregation about our finances, looks ahead to the coming year and is also a thank you to everyone who gives so generously to the church. We ask for consideration of an increase in monthly giving, a one-off donation or no change. Over the past few years, the campaigns have been very successful in largely bridging deficits in the accounts.

Unrestricted Funds and Restricted Funds

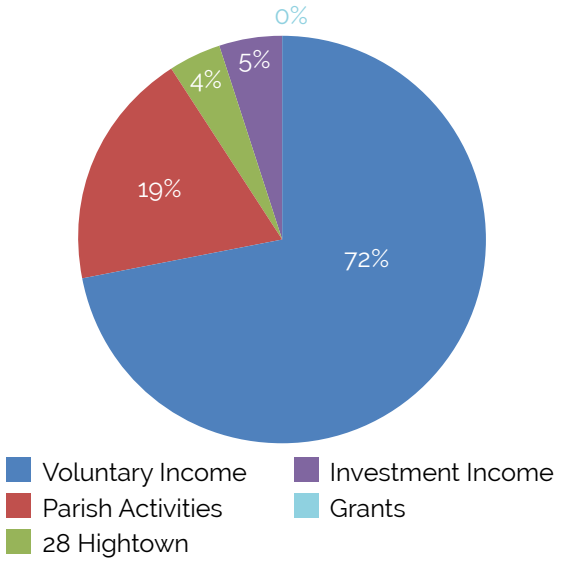
As at December 2024, our Unrestricted and Designated Funds were £450k and our Restricted Funds were £76k. These values include investments in Stocks and Shares.

Last 3 Years Actuals: Surplus/ (Deficit) re Income vs Expenditure

£k	2024	2023	2022
Unrestricted Operating Funds	(1.5)	(2.2)	(1.9)
Unrestricted Designated Funds	3.1	(1.7)	(4.3)
Total Unrestricted Funds	**1.6**	**(3.8)**	**(6.2)**
Restricted Funds	**0.3**	**2.2**	**4.2**
Total	**1.9**	**(1.7)**	**(2.0)**

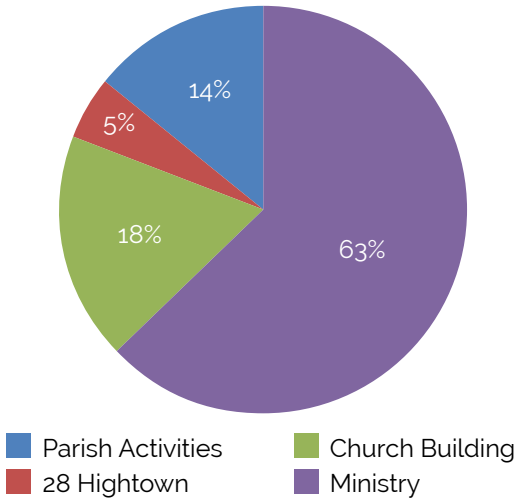
Unrestricted Operating Funds

Actual 2024 £k	2024
Income	
Planned Giving	83.2
Collections & Other Giving	13.9
Income Tax Recovered	23.1
Sub total Voluntary Income	**120.2**
Parish Activities	32.1
Number 28	6.7
Investment Income	8.4
Grants	0.1
Sub total	**47.3**
Total	**167.5**



Expenditure

Ministry Costs	106.9
Parish Activities	23.5
Church Building	30.0
Number 28	8.6
Total	**169.0**
Surplus/(Deficit)	**(1.5)**



2025 Forecast and looking ahead

We are likely to end the year in surplus. However this is mainly due to a very generous one off donation and the fact that we have not been employing a Children and Family Worker. If there are no major changes to our income and expenditure and a new staff member is recruited in the future, this will increase the pressure on our finances and could lead to a deficit. If this were to happen, the PCC would have to agree to fund some of this from our reserves.

MIDDLEWICH – THE HOME OF OUR NEXT RECTOR

Middlewich is a Cheshire town that blends rich history, scenic countryside nearby and excellent transport links.

The latter include close proximity to the M6 as well as railway stations in nearby Winsford, Sandbach, Holmes Chapel and Crewe. Winsford, the nearest of the four is on the main West Coast line, linking to Birmingham and Liverpool.

Middlewich has a fascinating past, dating back to Roman times, when it was a key centre for salt production, an industry that shaped the town's identity. One of Middlewich's most distinctive historic features is its canal network which includes the shortest canal in the UK! These waterways provide picturesque walking routes, opportunities for boating, and a peaceful escape into nature.

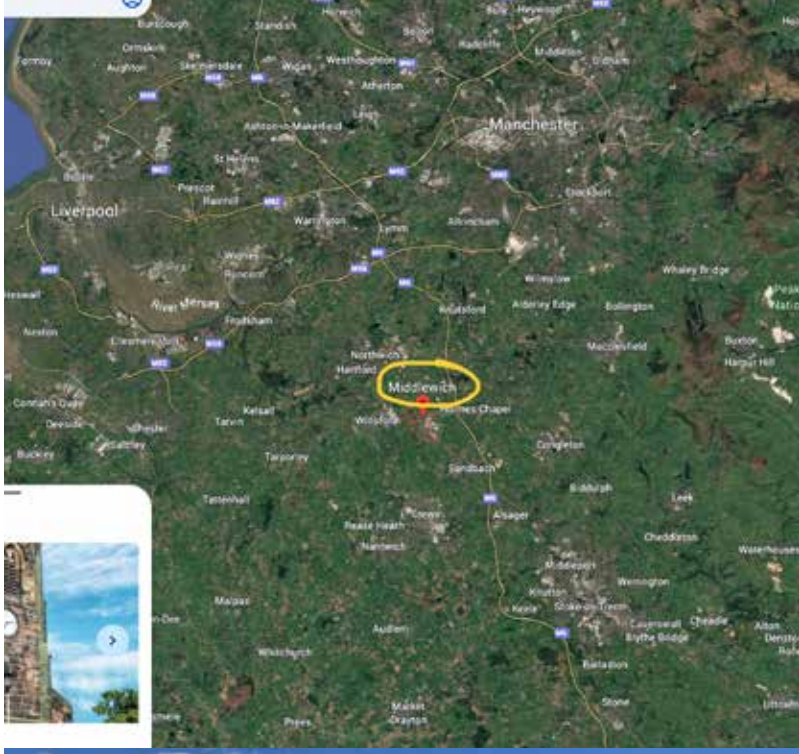
Regarding education, local options include Middlewich Primary School, Cledford Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, and Middlewich High School. There are independent schools and Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College, all near Northwich. There is also a thriving and growing home education community in the locality.

Middlewich High Street offers day to day shops whilst in terms of supermarkets, there is a Lidl and Morrisons and recently

opened Home Bargains. The food and drink scene is developing, with cosy cafés, traditional pubs, and some popular restaurants.

Festivals & Community Spirit
Middlewich is known for its vibrant community events which include seasonal fairs, farmers' markets, and heritage events. For those who enjoy daily walks, there is a great number of day to day options. Those who seek sporting activity can choose from golf clubs, tennis courts, football and rugby clubs, all within comfortable travelling distance.

Middlewich Clean Team is a voluntary group who promote a culture of pride in the town and the community. The original founder is part of our congregation.



CONGREGATIONAL FEEDBACK (MIDDLEWICH)

What I love about St Michael's, Middlewich

"There is always a warm welcome from friendly people who care"

(20 similar quotes)

"I love the diversity of the services and different worship styles"

(19 similar quotes)

"I came knowing no one yet was greeted and loved. I feel part of a family and people show care in the good times and bad"

(16 similar quotes)

"The wonderful music so we can praise God together"

(12 similar quotes)

"Meeting people at Number 28

(10 similar quotes)

"I have two young children, one of whom is autistic. They are noisy in the service! People are loving and accepting so I don't feel it's a problem

"It is a joy to raise my children here surrounded by energetic, loving and faith filled people

"The preaching and Bible teaching deepens my faith

Where I would like to see St Michael's, Middlewich change and develop

> Youth and children's work needs to happen. I'm an older teenager now but growing up it would have been good if there was more youth my age in the Church to do things with

(16 similar quotes referring to youth work as a priority)

> More outward facing events so that the people feel welcome and included

(14 ideas provided)

> Deepen links between congregations with socials e.g games nights, meals, films

(9 similar quotes)

> Continue to develop St Michael's excellent engagement with older people. It's a gap in society and the Church is a vital part of filling it

> We need to hear more from the leadership! What's gone on? What's coming up next? What's being worked on behind the scenes? Where are we heading? Monthly newsletter required?

(9 similar quotes)

> Number 28 is special. Extensive potential to put this facility to even greater use

(7 similar quotes)

> More joint services

(6 similar quotes)

> Leadership with vision is needed so that people have a sense of where the Church is going

> Communicate more effectively that our Church is full of vibrant people across ALL age ranges and that we welcome ALL

Personal qualities of our new Rector

Naturally enjoys communicating and will engage with the community

(30 similar quotes)

Approachable, warm, friendly and kind person

(23 similar quotes)

Proactive and enthusiastic, has ideas and will innovate

(19 similar quotes)

Will listen, is empathetic and can relate to a person who is struggling

(19 similar quotes)

We now need someone with a different approach, fired up with enthusiasm, who loves people, can see the potential and inspire us to grow

Leader with vision, strong in convictions and will take responsibility

(10 similar quotes)

Someone who is fun!

(10 similar quotes)

An effective and faithful Bible teacher / preacher

(10 similar quotes)

Knows how to care for, motivate and manage staff and volunteers

(9 similar quotes)

I want a Vicar who will let me sing my favourite songs on the microphone after the service has finished

(this was from one of younger members, age 5)

ST JOHN'S BYLEY

Byley church is at the centre of a rural community which has many family farms and diverse businesses. The central hub of the village has within in it the Primary School, Church, Village Hall and ten minutes walk away the highly regarded Lowe's Farm Shop and Ginger and Pickles cafe.

The village hall was constructed in 1999 and is a superb facility with extensive off road parking and an outside garden area. Whilst a community rather than Church asset, the church regularly makes use of it. There is also a spa in Byley!

Byley Sunday Services

1st Sunday – NO SERVICE

2nd Sunday – Holy Communion - 11am

3rd Sunday – Morning Prayer – 11am

4th Sunday - Holy Communion – 11am

Music provided by either organ or CD

BYLEY CHURCH KNOWS HOW TO PROVIDE A GREAT FEAST!

Annual Events

Plough Sunday Service
in January of blessing of the plough followed by lunch in the Village Hall

Rogation Sunday
A highlight of the year! A walk round one of the local farms to pray for the farming community, followed by an informal Communion and a bring and share supper.

Rose Fete in June and organised by Rose Fete Committee involving children from the parish, Byley School and any with a strong family connection to Byley.

Lammas Service in Church, in July or August.

Dog Show/Family Day
Usually held in September and especially if the dog show has not been held at the Rose Fete.

Harvest Festival 3rd Sunday in October Service of Thanksgiving with donations to the food bank, followed by lunch in the Village Hall.

Remembrance Sunday
11 am for the wreath laying by the Commonwealth War graves in the churchyard, followed by the service in Church.

Wreath Making Workshop
Last Saturday in November

Christmas Tree Festival
Not every year but will take place in 2025. Organised in conjunction with the Byley Community Association with donations to St. Luke's Hospice Carol Service

Carol Singing at Ravenscroft Hall
by kind permission of Jonathan and Josie Trelawny. Donations to Children's Society

Finance

No restricted funds.

There is presently £6800 in the current account, this is unrestricted. There are £26,000 in investments.

Two givers on standing order, other giving by envelopes.

Parish Share – payment is up to date.

Charities

St. Luke's Hospice in Winsford

Farm Crisis network – part of the Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy.

Children's Society

CONGREGATIONAL FEEDBACK (BYLEY)

What I love about St John's Byley

"The congregation may be small but the welcome huge. Such friendly people

(6 similar quotes)

"We are loyal to each other and want to offer continual support both in and out of Church

(5 similar quotes)

"Being part of a family in a beautiful building

(5 similar quotes)

"The service offers a welcome break from the hustle and bustle of day to day life

"I returned to Church after many years which can be daunting. I was welcomed back, now attend regularly and got confirmed

Where I would like to see St John's Byley change and develop

> A bigger congregation

(6 similar quotes)

> A return to weekly services

(2 similar quotes)

> We are primarily agricultural in Byley but also have other businesses and organisations. We need to engage with all and let them know they are welcome in our Church family

(3 similar quotes)

> Our Harvest and Christmas services are well supported. We need help to make these people feel there is a place for them week to week

> Develop school links and welcome young people

(3 similar quotes)

Personal qualities of our new Rector

> Someone who understands or is willing to show an interest and learn about the pressure farmers are under

> I'm 14. I would like someone who could make me laugh and services interesting to people my age

> We need a positive person who can new breath new life into us

> Take the time to get to know people properly and build relationships. Ensure this includes those unwell

WE THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

The parish serves a community of approximately 15,114 people. The population of Byley is circa 900.

As per the Church Urban Fund, the parish ranks 7181 out of 12178, where 1 is the most deprived parish.

Middlewich holds an annual Remembrance Sunday parade wreath laying and service, usually led by all Church ministers in the town. This important event is always well attended.

We long to be a Church where we include, welcome and love all. We are blessed to have within our fellowship people of all ages and stages who are neurodivergent, have disabilities or are struggling with mental health. We want to ensure we include all people and show care, kindness and understanding. As we have shared

more openly and listened to each other more keenly, progress has been made. We acknowledge we need to improve further in order to be a more inclusive community.

A fascinating history of St Michael's can be found at https://heritage.middlewichparishchurch.org.uk Heritage open days are held in St Michael's

The Church Christmas Fayre is a relatively new event but has started to establish itself as a popular and worthwhile day.

Times of vacancy can be challenging for Churches and also those discerning whether to apply. We have taken heart from these scriptures and hope and pray you do the same.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

Ephesians 3:20

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

AND FINALLY... MORE PHOTOS

AN ABOVE PAR WELCOME TEAM FOR THE MINI GOLF!

CHRIS AND ABBY EATON CONCERT AT ST MICHAEL'S

A WELL EARNED COFFEE BREAK!

A WHOLE CHURCH GET TOGETHER AT BYLEY VILLAGE HALL

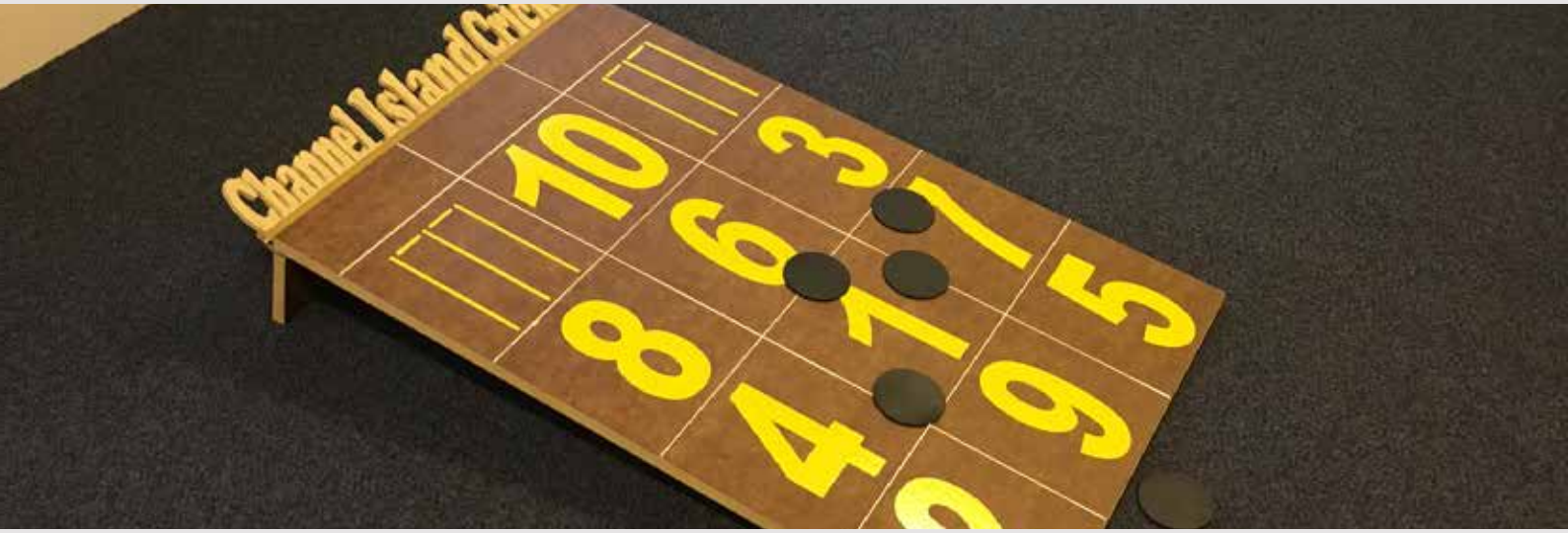
IF YOU ENJOY EATING SCONES, YOU NOW KNOW WHO TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH ☺

AND FINALLY... MORE PHOTOS

NO ONE ESCAPES AN INVITATION TO ONE OF OUR SERVICES!

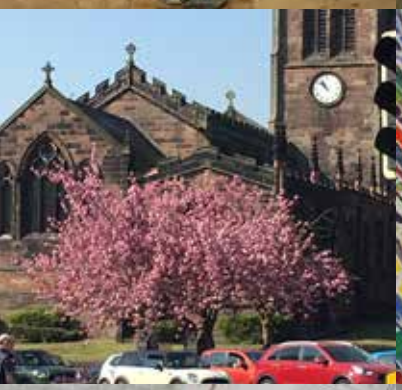
WE HOPE YOU WILL HAVE THYME TO JOIN US!

SHEFFIELD STILL TALKS ABOUT DENNIS TAYLOR, MIDDLEWICH TALKS ABOUT NEIL.....



OUR FAVOURITE CHURCH GAME! WE WILL TELL YOU HOW IT WORKS ☺

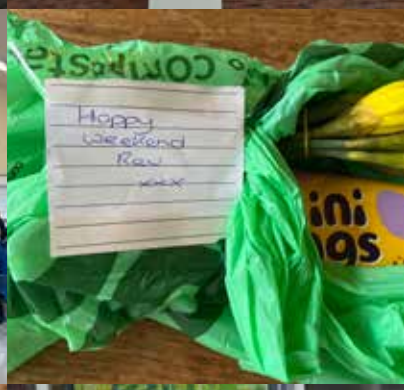
28
TWENTY EIGHT
Across the road at Number 28 you will find delicious snacks, meals, cakes and drinks: enjoy!



For God so loved
the world...

28

PRAY


Happy
Weekend
Ravi

ever
perish
ever
lasting
3:16

MIKE
PETER

CONTACT DETAILS

www.middlewichparishchurch.org.uk

Postal Address:
28 Hightown, Middlewich CW10 9AN

Office Phone: 01606 738005

Office email:
admin@middlewichparishchurch.org.uk