



# ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS WITH ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BYLEY

Find us on 

## GOING, GOING...

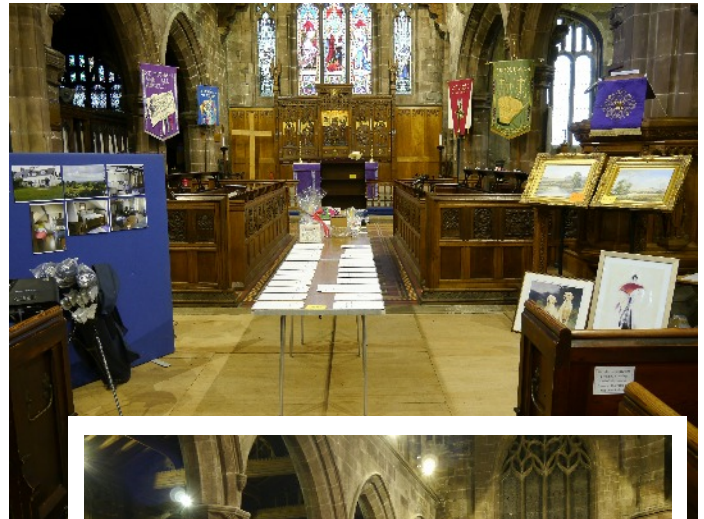
Our very own Robert Reed, auctioneer extraordinaire, guided an enthusiastic congregation through over 60 lots at the Promises Auction which was held in church on 18 March. Generous donations of promises ranging from a few hours training in specialist subjects to a five course dinner cooked for four, and goods ranging from hampers to a week's accommodation in Normandy, all came under the hammer with all proceeds going to the restoration fund.

Bidding was fierce, rivals desperate to outdo each other, a veritable forest of arms and bidder numbers waving to catch the auctioneer's attention. The atmosphere was electric, matched only by the grand sales of the international auction houses, as lot after lot caught the

buyers' imaginations and saw prices rocketing throughout the evening.

The grand total would have been even higher if it hadn't been for the late withdrawal of lot 19, Beth's flan dish, which had accidentally been gathered up with the other lots but was in fact being returned to her from a grateful apple pie eater. Despite this setback, the sum of £1681.92 was raised on the night through sales and refreshments.

A big thank you goes out to the organisers and also to the many individuals and local businesses who very kindly gave goods and commitments to make the auction an outstanding success. It was indeed terrific fun.



## Dear Friends

One of the most popular books of the late 1990's was entitled 'What They Didn't Teach You At Harvard Business School'. This is now regarded as a classic in the business fraternity. The book proposed that there are three things you are not taught that you desperately need to say:

1. I'm wrong.
2. I'm sorry
3. Please help me

Unless you say (1) you'll never move on in business, the book said. Unless you say (2) you'll be arrogant. Unless you say (3) your self-sufficiency will be your downfall.

These are lessons that are not just applicable to business but also to our whole lives. The Easter story is full of meaningful little cameos on life. One that I find quite profound is the story of the two criminals who were crucified alongside Jesus. You can find this story in Luke 23:32-33, 39-43.

Once they are hanging in agony on the three crosses one of the criminals

begins to insult Jesus and says; *If you're the Christ, save yourself and us!* The other criminal rebukes him – *Don't you fear God? We are punished justly; we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.* Then he turns to Jesus and says; *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.* Jesus responds to him; *Today you will be with me in paradise!*

The first man was stuck on his cross, his arrogance making him blind to the person on the cross beside him. But the second criminal seems to have learnt the lessons identified above in his dying moments. He recognises that he is in the wrong and justly punished. Then he turns to Jesus and asks for help – the result? Paradise!

The Easter story brings two aspects of God's love for his world into reality – forgiveness and new life. The cross brings us forgiveness and the resurrection brings us new life. One without the other is meaningless. If there was to be no resurrection than Jesus' promise to the criminal would have been an empty one. If Jesus did not die on the cross then neither the



criminal nor we would ever hope to attain new life with him.

This Easter are you ready to learn these three simple lessons of life:

*We are in the wrong – We need to say sorry – We need God's help*

Then like the second criminal on the cross you will know that you have a place in paradise with Jesus.

Yours in Christ

*Simon Drew*

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# EASTER ON HOLY ISLAND

It was Easter Sunday 2015 when I travelled to the edge of Britain to celebrate at St Cybi's church (pronounced St Cuby's), in Holyhead (pronounced *Hollyhead*), on Holy Island (pronounced *Holy*)! With me so far?



The town centre is built around the church which *itself* is built inside an old Roman fort. St Cybi was a 6<sup>th</sup> Century Cornish bishop, saint and first cousin of St David. Raised as a Christian he made a pilgrimage to Rome and Jerusalem and soon became a travelling priest. The original monastery he founded in AD 540 was sacked by Viking raiders in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century. The present church was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century.

The Easter Sunday service at the medieval church was moving and I had my first experience of a sermon, choir and hymn singing in Welsh. My lip-syncing reached new levels of performance! 52% of the Holyhead population speak the ancient language.

Lots of ornamental figures and stained glass which had upon one of its panels our "very own" St Michael.



I took Communion with the faithful and then bade farewell. I was assured by the Reverend that a welcome in the gritty harbour town would be mine should I return. I shook his hand and smiled graciously.

*Glenn S King*

# NEWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

This quarter – April-May-June – we shall be focussing again on the work of Christ for All in Andhra Pradesh.

We thought that we would start with some good news for a change, so here goes.

John Mark, who visited Middlewich a few years ago, is now in overall charge of the work in Andhra Pradesh, and his daughter was married recently. He sent us some photographs, with this message:



Virgil and Evangeline

Dear friends,

Thank you very much for your prayers and good wishes for the wedding of Evangeline and Virgil.

God has been very gracious towards us, and we remain extremely grateful to God for making it a grand event.

The Bishop of the CSI diocese of Dornakal solemnized the wedding; and many presbyters and pastors took part in the solemnization of the wedding.

As many as nearly three and a half thousand people attended the reception. (Robert and Christine take note - Ed) Vasantha and I express our hearty thanks to all of you for your prayers.

We praise and thank God for His blessings on the event and especially on Virgil and Evangeline. We covet your kind prayers for the newly-wed couple.

With regards.

Yours in Christ

Vasantha and John Mark

If these photographs whet your appetite, there are some more on the Prayer Board in church, and on the church website.

They show an interesting mix of English and Indian cultures; the bride was married in a white dress, then changed – several times – into a series of beautiful saris.



John Mark, Evangeline, Vasantha

The number of guests was a bit of a surprise. This is a custom which may not catch on in England.

Other news regarding the work in Andhra Pradesh is on its way, and will appear in future editions of the Messenger.

As part of this year's fundraising, we are organising a car Treasure Hunt and picnic lunch on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May. Further details will be available in due course, but please put the date in your diaries now.

## Services over Easter

**13 Apr - Maundy Thursday**  
Communion, 7.30pm

**14 Apr - Good Friday**  
Walk of Witness from St Mary's Church,  
King Street, 10.00am

Devotional Service, 2.00pm

**16 Apr - Easter Sunday**  
Communion, 9.15am  
All Age Communion, 11.00am





# Chester Cathedral, Sunday 4 June 5.30pm



You are invited to the Cathedral Celebration as our whole Diocese comes together to pray, 'Thy Kingdom Come' as part of a global wave of prayer. A service of praise, celebration, joy and Intercession featuring Stuart Townend, Bishop Peter and Steve Legg. Stuart Townend is one of the leading worship songwriters of his generation: from "How Deep the Father's Love" to "In Christ Alone", "The Power of the Cross" to "Beautiful Saviour", his songs are sung in churches and at events around the world, and his lyrics are acclaimed. Steve Legg is an

evangelist and a member of the 'Magic Circle'. Steve uses a unique blend of comedy, mystery and visual parables to communicate the Christian message of hope through Jesus. His TV appearances have been seen by millions, he has performed at major church events and in venues including the Royal Albert Hall, Wembley Conference



Centre and Birmingham's National Indoor Arena to name just a few.

This is an event not to be missed, **and it's free.**

To book your place speak to Simon.



## Future events

### **Tuesday, 11 April**

An afternoon of music and fellowship. The SMAART Handbell Ringers will be presenting "Making Music with Handbells". Wendy Bourne will be admitted to the Mothers' Union during our meeting.

### **Wednesday, 26 April**

The Diocesan Festival Eucharist will be held in Chester Cathedral at 11.00am. The list is now open for anyone wishing to attend this service. We will probably leave Middlewich around 9.30am and spend some time in Chester after the service.

### **18/20 May**

The Wave of Prayer. We have not yet been given the date or time for our Wave of Prayer Service. Hopefully we

shall be notified at the next MU Deanery meeting to be held on Tuesday, 25 April.

### **Wednesday, 24 May**

We shall be hosting one of the Diocesan Prayer Walks to be held in Whitegate. More information will be available when the arrangements are finalised.

### **Whitegate Daffodil Farm**

If you enjoy walking, why not visit Foxwist Green Farm, Whitegate and enjoy a unique day out in the beautiful Cheshire countryside from 29 March – 9 April. Entrance Fee: £2.00. in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. There is a large poster on the church notice-board giving more information.

*Jo Hulse*

## **Sunday Rota - APRIL**

Intercessions	Bridget Anton
Banner	Jo Hulse
Escorts	Janet Chisholm Pauline Ashley
Offertory	Cynthia Sant Lynn Astles

## **Sunday Rota - MAY**

Intercessions	Jo Hulse
Banner	Chris Overton
Escorts	Angela Tempest Edna Rose
Offertory	Pauline Davies Wendy Bourne



# BYLEY

## Byley April

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Morning Praise Readers  Sidesman	Steve Broadfoot Christine Hankey Anne Nichol Frank Walton
9 <sup>th</sup>	Communion Preaching Readers  Sidesman	Simon Drew Alison Boulton Alan Boyle Celia Wilkinson Alan Percival
16 <sup>th</sup>	Communion Preaching Readers  Sidesman	Liz Woode Liz Woode Frank Walton Jean Percival Celia Wilkinson
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Communion Preaching Readers  Sidesman	Lorraine Reed Jacqui Briscoe Anita Holman Vera Farrow Vera Farrow
30 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Praise Readers  Sidesman	Tony Woode Glenys Richardson James Bennion John Whiteside

### Reminder

Reminder of the **PCC Annual Meeting** on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April with the presentation of Accounts at 7.15pm for PCC Members followed, at 7.30pm, by the Annual Parochial Meeting to which all parishioners are invited. A normal PCC Meeting will then follow.

### Rose Queen Selection

Congratulations to Lucy Richardson who has been selected as our 2017 Rose Queen with Alice Richardson and Tamara Read as her attendants. Our Fairy Queen is Lily Such and the Rosebud Princess Emilia Marlow-Ellis. This year, for the first time, we will have a Rose Princess the part being taken by Fiona Newton. Henry Marlow-Ellis has the duty of Crown Bearer. Congratulations to Lucy and all the children taking part in the Rose Fete, let us wish for a fun day and fine weather on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Easter Flowers

Glenys will be pleased to receive donations towards the purchase of Easter Flowers. Please include the name of the person/ persons in who's name the donation is given.

### Storm Doris

Unfortunately the church did not escape the severe winds from Storm Doris. A portion of tiling on the roof was dislodged, which in turn also caused damage to the porch roof. You may have noticed that the fir tree at the end of church is no longer there. A large branch was snapped off, fortunately not causing any damage, but the tree was unstable and had to be felled.

### Readers

For those who like to prepare well in advance the readers are

7 May, Celia Wilkinson & Anne Nichol  
14 May, Alan Boyle & Organist

### Flower Rota

April 30<sup>th</sup> - May 7<sup>th</sup>                      A Holman

### Cleaning Rota

April 2<sup>nd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>                                      J Wildman

April 16<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>                                      A Nichol

April 30<sup>th</sup> - May 7<sup>th</sup>                                      G Richardson

## ROGATION SUNDAY SERVICE



## Sunday 7 May, 7.00pm

By kind invitation of Lorraine Bennion

Blue Slate Farm King Street Byley CW10 9LE

Please bring a contribution for the 'Bring and Share' Supper Table and don't forget to wear suitable clothing and footwear, you will be visiting various parts of the farm during the service.

Everyone is welcome to come along

# CEILIDH



**Saturday 22 April, 7.30pm**

**Adults £10, Children 11+ £5  
Food and Bar**

**BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW**

**Proceeds to the Restoration Fund**

## St Michael and All Angels PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION FAB FESTIVAL WEEKEND

**Sat 17 & Sun 18 June**

St Michael's will be open to the public all day Saturday and Sunday during the FAB Festival weekend which runs 16 - 18 June and, following on from last year's successful art exhibition, we will be holding an exhibition of church members' photographs.

We are not setting a theme so you can focus on sharing your favourite collection of images with a wider audience. This is a unique opportunity, don't be shy, contact Alastair (01606 835133) to book a space before they are all snapped up.



## Family Time Testimonial

A new feature for The Messenger focusing on individuals, couples and families within the church family of St Michael's. Each month we will bring you a new testimonial, perhaps from a familiar face that you can't quite put a name to, helping you to get to know each other better. If you see Sally approaching and you wonder why, it could be you next!

I (Claire) love Ecclesiastes 3:1-8:

- 3 There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under  
the heavens:
- 2 a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to  
build,
- 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 5 a time to scatter stones and a time  
to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to  
refrain from embracing,
- 6 a time to search and a time to give  
up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw  
away,
- 7 a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- 8 a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace

It reminds me of all that life throws at us; the high and the lows, the beginnings and the ends of which Graham and I have had many in our 16 years of marriage. We met in 1999 in Aberystwyth and got married 2000 and lived in Macclesfield.

In 2002, we uprooted; moving to Sweden for 3 years. On returning to the UK (Loughborough) in 2005, Hannah was "born" in 2006 and Noah in 2008.

We "planted" ourselves back up North, in Middlewich, in 2011, joining St Michael and All Angels. We were so proud of our babies, then aged 5 and 3 who, despite "hating" saying goodbye to all they had known, learnt to "love" their new home and friends. In 2016, after 20 years service for Astrazeneca, Graham was made redundant, becoming co-director of his new business.



(L-R) Hannah, Noah, Claire and Graham Wilson

Over the years, we have "wept" many tears over house moves, "scattered" friendship circles; "mourned" the loss of special people, "given up" on a few dreams. We've "searched" for new homes, "laughed and danced" with new friends, "mended" treasured objects damaged in transit and "thrown away" many more. In all that time, the ever-constant in our lives has been the love of God and a recognition that there is a time for everything and all our times are held in His hands.

## SERVICE PLAN - APR

	2	9	16	23	30
<b>Middlewich</b>					
8.00am	C				
9.15am	C	C	C	C	C
10.00am					
11.00am	AA	MP	AAC	MP	C
2.00pm		B		B	B
4.00pm				APC	
6.30pm	E	28			BCP
<b>Byley</b>					
11.00am	MP	C	C	C	MP

AA=All Age, AAC=All Age Communion,  
 APC=Annual Parochial Church Meeting,  
 B=Baptism, BV=Bereavement Service,  
 C=Communion, CON=Confirmation,  
 E=Evensong, MES=Messy Church,  
 MP=Morning Praise, P=Prayer,  
 PP=Pentecost Praise, PS=Plough Sunday,  
 X=No Service, ROG=Rogation, 28=No.28



## MIDDLEWICH & BYLEY CHURCH STAFF

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01606 46263

**Alan and Jean Percival,  
 Byley Church Warden and treasurer**  
 percival.yatehouse@googlemail.com

01606 833808

**Byley Village Hall Bookings**

07926 571172

## PARISH REGISTERS 2017

### Baptisms

12-Mar	Anya Marie HUNTER- MAHON
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### Church Funerals

14-Mar	Steven BEHAN Mow Cop
21-Mar	Harold Anthony MARSHALL (Tony) Alexandra Road

### Crematorium only Funerals

16-Mar	John HULSE Newton Court Care Home
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Congratulations to all the volunteers who help to make No.28 the success that it is. This week the Food Hygiene Standards Agency awarded it the maximum score of five. Well done.

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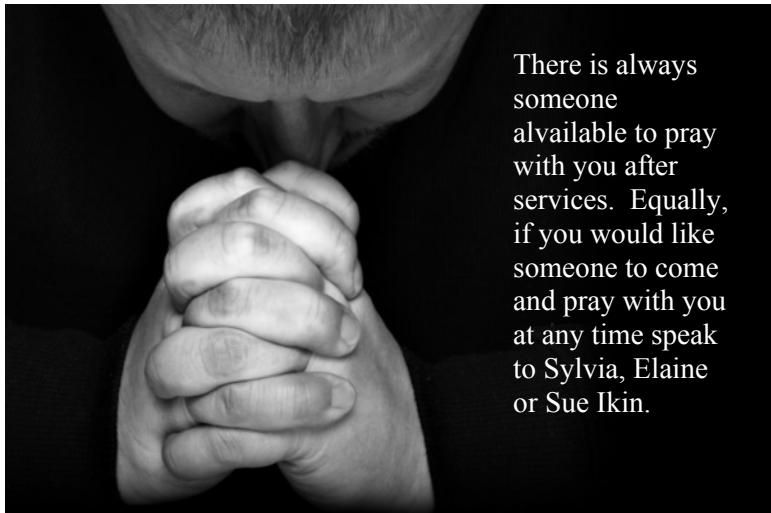
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There is always someone available to pray with you after services. Equally, if you would like someone to come and pray with you at any time speak to Sylvia, Elaine or Sue Ikin.

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**Office hours: 10am-2pm Monday-Friday**  
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