

Rector: Nick Leggett 07925 419068 Email: leggett1uwe@yahoo.co.uk

Please send your news, thoughts, messages, helpful suggestions, requests etc. to Claire Wilks by Wednesday lunchtime. Either by phone on 01295 711516 or email clairewilks@hotmail.co.uk



Services

Sunday 12th February

8.15am Holy Communion at Sulgrave
9.30am All Age Service at Marston St Lawrence
10.30am Holy Communion at Middleton Cheney

Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th February

10.00am Holy Communion at All Saints

Sunday 19th February

9.00am Holy Communion at Chacombe
10.30am Morning Praise at Middleton Cheney
10.30am Holy Communion at Sulgrave
10.45am Holy Communion at Thenford

All Saints Clock

Many, many thanks to Ian and Dave from Brackley who have got the chimes working on our tower clock and corrected the time.
It's lovely to hear it ringing out again!

Wednesdays at All Saints

The church will be open every
Wednesday from 10am until 4pm

10 – 10.30am Said Communion service
10.30am – 12.30pm **Jolly Teapot!**

A chance to chat over coffee/tea, cakes and biscuits

First Steps - our weekly service for babies and toddlers with their parents or carers **will not be happening this week as it is half term.**

*At all other times between 10am and 4pm church will be open and there will be a **warm space** in the side chapel. Refreshments will be available.*

Foodbank

If you know of an individual or family that would benefit from a food parcel please do let me (Claire), Mary Phipps, Rose Steele or Rev. Nick know.

Parcels may be collected on Wednesdays from All Saints during 'Warm Space' opening times – see above.

'LIVING IN MIDDLETON CHENEY : 1953 – 2023'

LOOKING FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO MIDDLETON'S ARCHIVE, AN EXHIBITION ... AND POSSIBLY A BOOK.

BACKGROUND

Your Middleton Library has recently received 35 years of documents, photographs and oral history developed by Villager Historian Nancy Long.

To celebrate the Coronation and bring the archive up to date for future generations, the Library is collecting short essays and notes from residents on life between the two Coronations, 1953-2023.

All material received will be archived, some will be exhibited in the Library over Coronation weekend, and there is the intention to produce an edited book.

CONTENTS

Anything from writers, people who interview other people, clubs and students. The writing could be about YOU, your arrival in Middleton or your local life. We are also interested in what and who have departed in the period – characters, trades, shops, churches, meeting places etc. What of the Flower Show, processions, visits by the famous ... and infamous. Your school days, the history of your house, your sporting life.

FORMAT

One to five pages of A4 in single spaced Verdana 12 ... 1,500 words max.

Head with your chosen title and author(s). At close add any notes, references, thanks etc. + your brief biography – when arrived in MC, job and profession, key activities, family etc. if relevant.

THE DEADLINE IS MONDAY 1 MAY. SEND ATTACHMENT TO brian.goodey@btinternet.com

For those who worship at home

Second Sunday before Lent

Genesis 1 v 1-4

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

Hymn 252 - "Inspired by Love and Anger" verses 1,2 and 4

Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain,
aware of God's own bias, we ask him once again:

"How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind?
How long dare vain self-interest turn prayer and pity blind?"

From those forever victims of heartless human greed,
Their cruel plight composes a litany of need:

"Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of peace?
When is the day when prisoners and dreams find their release?"

To God, who through the prophets proclaimed a different age,
We offer earth's indifference, its agony and rage:

"When will the wronged be righted? When will the kingdom come?
When will the world be generous to all instead of some?"

Thought for the Day

I can't believe that, as I felt the need to make observations about the tragedy unfolding in Turkey and Syria, one of the readings this Sunday is the creation story.

As one clergyman I knew well would have said "if you think this is a coincidence may you live a very dull life" I think I agree with him.

Earthquakes are part of earth's ongoing evolution. God made the earth and all that is in it, yet there will be some people who will be saying God sends earthquakes deliberately to punish the people living in those regions, others will say this is so horrendous there can't be a God.

I disagree very strongly with both of these views.

As we read the Creation story, we can't fail to see the beauty of the process. I would always go along with the scientists on the time scale of evolution, but I am in awe of the understanding of whoever wrote Genesis, of the accuracy of the sequence of the development of life.

The whole rhythm of the sequence of evolution and harmony inspires me. We as humans were given the task of stewarding it all and given both exploring minds and the free will to use them responsibly. What got in the way?

Another of today's readings tells us of Jesus' instructions to "remember the lilies of the field"
(Mathew 8: 25-End)

It seems to me that Jesus called us to follow his example to care for all of creation, to love everyone, to never judge, to always seek justice, to be compassionate, always put others before ourselves. Ours is not to question why but to pray for all who suffer and work towards the development of a more caring and passionate world.

Prayer

Lord Jesus come among us. Inspire us to be bold and speak out for the exploited. Give us the compassion that can send a blanket of your love over all that suffer. **Amen**