

CONCORD ~ August 2013

Prayer for the Month

O all you works of the Lord, bless the Lord,
Praise him and magnify him for ever!
Bless the Lord, you heavens,
Bless the Lord, you stars of heaven,
Bless the Lord, all rain and dew,
Bless the Lord, you clouds and lightning,
Praise him and magnify him for ever!
O winter and summer, bless the Lord,
O let the earth bless the Lord,
Bless the Lord, all green things on the ground
O whales and all things that move in the waters,
O you fowls of the air, bless the Lord,
Praise him and magnify him for ever!
Bless the Lord, all people on the earth,
Bless the Lord, you spirits and souls of the righteous,
O you holy and humble of heart, bless the Lord,
Praise him and magnify him for ever!

From the "Benedicite Omnia Opera" ~ a Hymn for Creation

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.
0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

As we enjoy a marvellously warm July (so far, at least ~ by the time you read this we may have to revise our estimates!) it seems right to use a hymn of praise and thanks to God for the glories of creation as our prayer for the month of August. It is rich and good and glorious and there to be enjoyed. Some people ~ the Brian Coxes of this world, perhaps ~ simply say "wow!" loudly on screen. Christians should say "HalleluJah! Praise the Lord!"

The vision of the Jew who wrote those words originally, perhaps a couple of hundred years before Jesus, was of the whole of Creation giving its own proper glory to God. He did not stick with people (some of our prayer books offer us a cut down version of his hymn which only invites people and angels to bless, or give thanks, to God. They miss the point.). All creation and all our knowledge of it is somehow a reflection of God's glory. We should start (as Genesis does) with an affirmation of that, and then move

on to try to understand any moral or technical problems that may throw up. It is not that the science we now know somehow disproves God. Rather the science is revealing what God already knows, and that is more wonderful and challenging than we knew.

I do not intend to discuss all that now ~ another month perhaps. What I do want to highlight is a letter ~ a circular from the RSPB ~ which I received recently. There is a certain local interest to it, since it refers to the meeting 124 years ago in what is now Fletcher Moss park, Didsbury when the RSPB was founded by a group of people who decided they could even as individuals do something about a wide-scale problem. But as Christians we should have an interest in what we even as individuals do which affects the Creation around us. For whatever reason, it is under stress, and human activity, even on a small scale (and probably on a very large scale) at the very least is adding to that stress.

How many House Martins, for instance, have you seen in Northenden this year. Very few, I suspect. It may be because the Sahara is getting drier; it may be because no.1 Church Rd., is now blocking their flyways; but it is also because decorators a year or so ago removed the nests which made up our local colony on Palatine Rd. when they painted the upper storeys of the shops. How many bees have you seen in your garden. There are some, but they don't seem as many as in previous years. I know it was a difficult spring, and last year had appalling weather, but what else has contributed to the picture. Maybe it is the reluctance of the agro-chemical industry to give up insecticides which seem to affect bees, (which are, after all, a specialised kind of insect) even though the evidence is not 110% proven. But maybe it is also our unease with anything which buzzes or crawls ~ we kill it, or block its nest holes ~ and our tendency to pave over our gardens. It's very trendy, and less work perhaps, but destroys nest-holes and food sources and habitats in general (and creates a risk of surface flooding too). And in the end, what will pollinate our food-crops if it is not bees. Will humanity turn out to be the source of its own destruction?

The RSPB talks about making Homes for Nature, and I'll go along with that, though I prefer to think of partnering God in his Creation, in the way we leave a light footprint as we tread our way through it and enjoy it's still rich and exuberant variety with him.

Greg Forster

Northenden Methodist Church

Minister: The Revd. David Bown,
5 Kenworthy Lane, Northenden, M 22
0161 – 998-2158

Sunday Services.

Family worship ~ Sunday breakfast club ~ MESSY CHURCH

****Usually the 1st Sunday every month****

All start off with breakfast[#] together at 9.00am, then do activities with your child(ren) followed by a story, songs, and prayer based on the activities ~ finishes about 10.30am.

[#] Currently £1.50p per person.

For details contact Amy Carline, 07816 888 704

** If this is a Bank or School Holiday, check with Amy to find out what alternative arrangements may have been made ~

11th 11.00am Mr. Phil Maltby

18th 11.00am Mr. John Ream

25th 11.00am Mr. Duncan Rutter

Sept. 1st 9.00am ?? Messy Church ~ to be confirmed

11.00am Morning Worship.

NB evening service at St.Wilfrid's, 6.30pm

8th 11.00am Morning Worship.

(September's preachers' roster is not yet published.)

Community Lunch

Wed. August 14th, 12 noon till 1.30pm ~ to be confirmed

(Next lunch, ~ Sept. 11th, noon till 1.30pm ~ also to be confirmed)

Northenden Civic Society

There is a meeting of the society on the second Tuesday each month, in St.Wilfrid's Church Hall, at 7.30pm. Its **website** is < www.northendencivicsociety.org >. It also has a **Facebook** site; access it via the website. Next Meeting, 10th Sept.

<p>The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)</p>
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South Manchester Meeting

There is a meeting for worship

**at the Friends' Meeting House, Wythenshawe Rd.,
at 10.30am every Sunday.**

Children welcome. ** Details from Enid Pinch, 445 6778.

The main hall and smaller rooms are available for hire;

~ contact Sue Shaw at the Central Manchester Office, 834-5797

Northenden Players ...

... begin their new season on 1st Sept, in the Methodist Hall ~
but I do not have their Play List yet.

Hello again, God, ...

Yes, it's me, and I'm not quite sure where I'm at.

People keep on talking about moving on.

I suppose the end of one school year,
or the summer break and the thought of holidays
does make them think that way.

But actually there's times when I'd rather not move on.

I'm comfortable where I am,
and if everything is changing I get a bit nervous,
even when I'm a bit excited too with something new.

Do you ever change, or do you like things always to be the same?

Some people talk as if you always like the old things,
but if so, why do things always keep changing?

And why do people change too?

We get older, and move houses or schools or jobs,
and some people look forward to retiring and then complain.

Do *you* know where you're at, 'cos sometimes I don't?

There's that song, isn't there ~ *keep me travelling along with you?*

Are you always travelling, keeping up with us ~
or even getting there ahead of us?

So you're there, are you, wherever we travel, whatever changes,
and we can still find you there, and you can find us? Is that it?

Honest.

St. Wilfrid's Church,
Northenden.

Ford Lane, M22 4WE

Rector ~ the Revd. Greg Forster,
Northenden Rectory, Ford La., M 22 4NQ
Tel. 0161 998 - 2615

Email; gsf @ stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk

Services :

On Sundays there will be a communion service at 8.00am.
except July 28th.

Also on Thursdays there is a communion service, at 10am.
"Sunday Club" ~ for children from 7 upwards ~ in the
Rectory, both between 10.30 and 11.30am Sundays except
when there is a Family Service in church, and during the long
School summer holiday.

The Nigerian Anglican "Restoration" Congregation meets
weekly at **12.30pm** for about 2 hours in St.Wilfrid's Church. The
service includes traditional and modern music.

- 11th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship.
- 18th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship
- 25th 10.30am Morning Prayer
6.30pm Holy Communion
- Sept. 1st 10.30am Family Communion
6.30pm United Evening Worship at St Wilfrid's
- 8th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship.

Drop in on St.Wilfrid's ...
On Sundays from 2.30 till 5.15pm
the church is open
for private prayer, for enquiries, or just to look around.
To visit at other times, please contact the Rector.

The next **Open Week-end** will be September **14th & 15th** ~ with displays and the opportunity to climb the tower ~ linked to the national "**Heritage Open Days**" week-end.

But the tower will be open on the afternoon of the Boat Race!

The Parish Registers -

Baptisms;



On Sunday 14th July in the Parish Church ...
Matthew Richard Garrity.

Dates for your Diary ~



it's all (not) happening!

Farmers' Market, on Sat. 3rd August, in the village.

And also on September 7th ~

and it may be a rather grander affair than usual

No Women's Group in August, but put 2nd Sept. in your diaries.

No Bible Studies either.

And a PCC has not been arranged yet, though it might happen!

Boat Race &c., Sun. 25th Aug. ~ inc. Tower trips from 2pm -

Sept. 10th Northenden Civic Society Meeting in St. Wilfrid's Hall

11th Bible Study in the Rectory, 8.00pm

Open Days ~

Heritage Open Days

These are on Sat. 14th & Sun. 15th Sept.

(Not the week earlier as I have previously printed.)

Saturday 12 noon to 5.30pm, Sunday 2.00 – 6.00pm

As usual, Tower trips & historical and contemporary displays.

We Will Remember Them !

August 2013 triggers a thought ~ about August 1914, and August 2014. We are (rightly) being asked to remember and commemorate somehow the beginning of the Great War a hundred years ago. I am discussing various ideas with the local British Legion Branch, but one possibility has struck me, and that is to run a series of articles in Concord during the year about Northenden men (and women?) who served in that war. I already have a few stories of those who are buried or commemorated in our church-yard, but I wonder whether there are any more. At this distance it

would be family tradition or hearsay, but still worth reporting. Let me know if you have a story.

Greg Forster

WHY NOT JOIN **THE NORTHENDEN BRITISH LEGION BRANCH**

WE CAN HELP WITH

***MOBILITY *WELFARE *FINANCE *VETERAN BREAKS
* PLUS MORE SERVICES.**

PLEASE CALL IN ~ Mon., Wed., Fri., 10.00 – 14.00.

**WE ARE BASED AT ASHTON RAINS ESTATE AGENTS,
372 PALATINE RD, NORTHENDEN**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR CASEWORKERS:

Brian Brereton, tel. 07544 223658 or

Glyn Humphreys, tel. 07572 126844

Magpie ...

... has really been flitting around this month. Take the **refuse** disposal centre at **Sharston** for instance. You occasionally get a whiff of something when you fly past there, ~ especially last April and May, when they had some kit out of action, but that is dealt with now. What he overheard people saying who run the place was that they are very happy to be told when there is a whiff of something, or any other complaint. It's not just that they don't want to annoy the neighbours; it may mean that something isn't working properly and so they are losing money on it. So ring them on 0161 491-2522 or email at Longley @ viridor . co . uk with times and details, and they will do their best to sort it out.

... and then there's the **Church Inn**. Now that's a wonderful perch at the moment, but for how long? It has new owners, and they are actively working on developing it. They showed their plans to the Civic Society in July, and they look promising. The striking façade of the present building, looking up Royle Green Rd., is to remain, and within it there will be four three storey "Town Houses". The service wing and ancillary buildings behind will come down and on the space thus released and on the old car park there will be parking, a couple of flats, and a mix of 2, 3 and four bedroom houses with gardens. The designs will mirror some of the classic houses in the neighbourhood. Finally, on the

corner of Ford Lane, where the beer-drop used to be, there will be another two-storey cottage. There will be parking for 19 cars ~ more than one space per house ~ and access for vehicles will be via Elverston St. Magpie was impressed. The only draw-back (and this will apply however the site is developed) is that access is that way, which involves sharp turns in narrow roads often with cars parked on both sides. We shall see what the Planning Authorities say when the proposal is put to them formally. It is good that the developer is taking soundings locally before it gets to that stage.

... and then there's **Cragg's corner**. Some work began there the week before planning consent ran out for flats in the present structure. But after a burst of activity, things have slowed down ... interesting!

... and then there's the **Library**. Finally the Council came to a public consultation meeting about it, convened by the Rector. They were clearly set on a scheme which will see the closure of the present building (for which there is no money in the budget) and the opening of a branch office in the front of the Parkway Green building several hundred yards along Palatine Rd., near the Health Centre, but away from the main shopping area of the village. [They must have taken note of our arguments that Libraries are good for your health!] This will be open only 15 – 20 hours a week, half the present time, and only during office hours when the Parkway Green staff can help keep an eye on it. They intend to keep the children's book club and some of the other social/ educational activities going.

They agreed politely to make a site visit to the Methodist Church which was forcibly put forward as an alternative site, with the possibility of evening opening. Then, the next day, within hours of the meeting, a press release appeared, trumpeting the fact that they had consulted, and that they were going to be using the Parkway Green offices, and with a suitable quote from the Parkway Green director saying how happy he was to welcome the library and contribute to community welfare. Just a little bit too soon and too slick. It can only have been prepared before the consultation, and it did not say a thing about the Methodist Church. The new site will not be ready till October, but meanwhile library hours in the old building are to be cut back from the beginning of August.

... yes, Magpie does know that it isn't Parkway Green any more, but it is the name most people will recognise. And incidentally, if half the Housing Association staff can be relocated to the old Willow Park offices, what guarantee is there that the rest will not be, and good-bye Library outpost?

... and then there's the **Methodist Church**. Thanks to a timely intervention by the Lord Mayor's Charity the old worship area is being completely reworked and improved. Gone are the rigid fixed pews; gone are the two porches and the separate entrance lobby; gone too is the organ and the elevated pulpit, to make a more manageable worship area across the building where these used to be, while the main "nave" nearer the old entrance is walled off, with a mezzanine floor above (we understand), to make a space for community activities and public use. There is a surprising amount of space. Whether that would make a good library is not for Magpie to say, but if so, he reckons, the City should pay properly for the use of it. The attraction of Parkway Green is, it seems, that it is more or less for free.

... and then there's the **Boat Race**, and the Duck Race, and the Tug-o'-War, and the Disco, and the Teas, and climbing the Tower, and ... ~ though strictly Magpie hasn't flitted through all these, since they haven't happened yet. On August Bank Holiday Sunday all these things will be happening on the Mersey, and around the Village Green, the Church (the church Church) and the Crown Inn, from about mid-day, with the races starting at one at Simon's Bridge. Roll up, roll up ~ proceeds towards Christie Hospital research work.

... and then there's the **bats**, and the **gnats** (but no rats and the cats are only bystanders). Despite what must have been a harsh winter for them, the bats of Ford Lane and the river bank are in full cry (not that the likes of you and I would hear them); pipistrelles, and daubentons, and are there some noctules too, flitting far more daintily than Magpie knows how up and down the fly-ways under the trees, picking off the greenfly and other aphids, or flying high over the weir. And the gnats (or are they midges ~ but that wouldn't rhyme) were a joyous target for them too (along with a flight of swifts) as they danced in towering columns in the twilight. The hot weather in early July brought them out, and they were indeed dancing in dense towers, like columns of smoke above

the trees. This is the sort of thing the Attenboroughs of this world travel to exotic climes to film, and here we have them on our doorstep (or, at least, above our lawns). Wow! No wonder the RSPB and others want us to make our gardens into sanctuaries.

... and then there's the irony of it! Did you notice how in mid July on the same day the Government published a report saying that packed lunches should be banned in schools because they were bad for the nation's health, and encouraged obesity, and also dropped the idea of a minimum price per unit for alcohol, and plain, unattractive packaging for cigarettes, on the grounds that the many reports they had published on those matters were not conclusive enough and it might cost jobs. Did I also hear the phrase "Nanny State"? So we can draw the conclusions that jobs are more important than lives; that you can nanny children but not smoking drinkers; and that Big Alcohol and Big Tobacco have more political clout than an army of mums making too big lunches; Oh, and Freedom (especially to kill yourself) is a negotiable commodity. Meanwhile, Health Service costs are set to rocket, and half of smokers will die from it. (At least they'll still have jobs)

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There's always something
New . **Greg Forster**

You would think that after thirty odd years here I would know all there is to know about St. Wilfrid's Church. I don't. A couple of "new" things have come to light recently. The first is the angelic figure to the left (north) above the west door, which holds a model church. (I suppose I should have wondered about the one to the right which holds a chalice, but that one has never seemed important to me.) The symbolism is plain: here is an angel protecting God's church and people. It is a well known theme which occurs in mediaeval paintings, and other icons.

I have long wondered whether it was a mediaeval relic which was reinstated in 1875 when that door was enlarged. I have pored over the old photographs which we have, trying to make out

whether there was a figure above the old door. Annoyingly, there are bushes between the door and the camera, and it is not clear.

But I was looking in the wrong place. It is actually clear from examining the carving itself, which, though its style is mediaeval, is all of a piece with the Victorian string course ~ the chamfered fluting which runs round the doorway at that level and matches the decoration of the block from which the angel is carved. It was wishful thinking, I suppose; though I still do not know whether there was any comparable mediaeval sculpture there originally (I suspect not, now. If there was it was very badly eroded.) what we have now is a very appropriate Victorian borrowing of the mediaeval language of symbols, which we can take to heart. God (with his angels) protects his church and feeds his people.

The other "new" knowledge concerns the bells and their frame. For years I have been telling visitors to the Tower that the bells were put in in 1750 by hauling them up the inside of the tower itself to be mounted in the new diagonal frame that had just been build for them, before the clock-floor was put in in 1825. There's a beam with an iron sling on it right in the roof, on which the tackle, surely, was slung which raised them, and there's a round trap-door in the floorboards below the bell frame that they went through ... except! ...

... except that during June's open day I took a measuring tape into the bell chamber and measured the bells, and the trap door and the gap where the bell frame has actually been shaped – rounded out – for a bell to go through. Oh, dear. The trap door is about 90cm (3ft) across, and the number five bell is 1.00metre (3ft.4in) in diameter. That, and the tenor which is even bigger, must have come in another way. Even at a slant they would not have gone through. What is more, the bell frame has actually been cut away in places so that these bells will swing through it.

The logic of this is, I think, that far from being new work in 1750, as I have been telling people for 25 years, the bell frame and the huge beams below it are significantly older. The generous gift of John Worthington may have enabled the creation of the present 15cwt (750kg) tenor, but it was not that five bells of the present sizes were augmented by the sixth, but that six *existing* smaller bells were all enlarged when they were recast then. This adds a whole new chapter to the history of the bells here ~ one at

which we can only guess ~ between 1549, when a royal inventory recorded *five* bells, and the installation of the present *six* in 1750 in a frame which is clearly designed for six, but was too small to take the present ring without modification.

I am still thinking this through ~ any ideas are welcome ~ but they are a sweet ring. Have I printed this old rhyme ever before?

*Didsbury bells; pots and pans –
Cheadle bells; kettles and cans –
North'en bells; sweet music!*

A bit of local chauvinism! Didsbury is a smaller ring (their tenor is the size of our treble); so too, I think, is Cheadle. All are by the same foundry, Rudhall's of Gloucester, from a similar date.