

CONCORD ~August 2014

Prayer for the Month

Lord God, we confess that we mar your world
with conflict and war,
and so we pray that you will instil in the hearts of all people
a true love of peace, and a willingness to pursue it.
Heal with your reconciling love the history
and the hurts of the nations.
Guide with your peace-giving wisdom
all who take counsel for the nations of the world.
And give the blessing of success to the peace-makers,
and to those who seek to bring relief and help
in the face of destruction.
For your love's sake. Amen.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane. 0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

In last month's Concord I mentioned the triathlon which Kathryn Morgan was entering, on 13th July, to raise money for Smalls for All, a charity that sends pants and bras to Africa and also sponsors girls' education. Well, she duly ran, swam and cycled, and completed the course. Well done ~ it fair takes my breath away to think of it.

Assisted dying is, if you'll pardon the pun, a live issue at the moment. You will recall the thoughtful debate in the House of Lords in July, and the former archbishop, George Carey's change of heart over the matter. It is a real issue too on a personal level for some people as they contemplate their own growing frailty, or that of those close to them. For some it is an option they wish they had; for others it is a fear, as they see it as a vultures' charter. (Lord Tebbitt in the debate quoted someone who had commented to him, in connection with her will, that she had no family, but several vultures.) Nevertheless, it is an issue about which people think with a compassion and honesty on both sides, which calls for respect.

Lord Falconer's bill included safeguards. It offered the option to someone with six months to live or less to ask for help in ending their life, because of its discomfort and indignity, or outright pain. For all Lord Falconer's acute legal mind, I think there is muddled thinking here, not least because many of the cases offered as examples of who might benefit would not meet his suggested criteria. If someone has been in a locked in, or disabled, state for a good number of years, who can say whether they will die within six months? No doubt thirty years ago a doctor would have said of Prof. Stephen Hawking that he only had months to live! Or they are beyond the ability to express a rational choice, through a stroke or dementia.

It is not an easy matter to resolve, and certainly not in a page, even in Concord! The sanctity of life is not something to be dispensed with lightly. I hope to return to this.

Perhaps in the same vein, on Sun. 14th Sept. I hope that we shall be including prayers for healing and wholeness within the morning communion service. More about this too in September's issue. This is in connection with an event in Bolton that weekend led by Bishop Graham Dow.

Greg Forster

"We will remember them" 1914-1919

We continue the series of stories about servicemen from World War 1 who are buried or commemorated in St. Wilfrid's Church Ground.

8. William Lovesey. (Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery)

One of the most poignant memorials in the churchyard is to William Lovesey. How poignant I did not realise till preparing this item, and scanning baptism records for 1918. It stands very near the archway of the west gate. My attention was first drawn to it, as with several other monuments, by visiting relatives ~ I think from overseas. They also drew attention to the mention of his son on the same stone. According to the parish magazine, Gunner Lovesey had been one of the first to enlist from the Shadow Moss part of the parish, now dominated by Airport car parks.

In the German spring offensive of 1918 he had survived the early period unscathed, the magazine for May of that year says,

though his battery was in a very exposed position. But on 31st March a shell burst in the entrance to his dugout, and according to the chaplain at the hospital at Doullens, writing to the Rector, he died within 24 hours without regaining consciousness. Lowry Hamilton comments that he knew the military cemetery in which Lovesey was buried. He goes on to say that Lovesey left a young wife and two children. He does not add that this wife was some seven months pregnant, and young William was born on 19th May, Whit Sunday, that year. He, and an older sister, were baptised in July.

And it was that William Lovesey, I presume, who died, as a Prisoner of War, in Sumatra in January 1945. Those are the details on the headstone beside the tower, arched, gate to the churchyard, and I can only find one record of a William Lovesey in that setting ~ as a Petty Officer on HMS Jupiter, a destroyer that hit a mine in the Java Sea in 1942, who died on shore in Jan. 1945. Though in the website record his age is given as 45, it is recorded in a rather vague way, as if they did not know all the details, so that I suspect it is an error. He would have been 26.

The family came from Hey Head and both father and son are commemorated also on the memorials which have been preserved from the old Hey Head Congregational Church, of which they had been members, in a run down memorial garden on the isolated and closed spur of Woodhouse La. off Ringway Rd.

PER ARDUA AD ASTRA.

Naturally most of those commemorated in our churchyard were in the army, serving in France and Flanders, but that is not true of all. Lt. Ernest Guest had indeed served with the army, for 19 years with the King's Own Royal Lancashire Regt., much of the time in India. During the war he was in Egypt and Salonika, before being posted back to the UK. Here he trained as a pilot and became part of the Royal Flying Corps. He joined 25 Sqn. RFC in France in early Feb. 1918, and on 26th of that month was killed in action after a successful flight over enemy lines. He was described by his CO as a keen and capable pilot, but even for the keen and capable it is said that the average life-span of a pilot on the western front was two weeks. Guest just about made that! He was 36. The magazine speaks of him as a born soldier, full of energy and devoted to duty.

In the first two months of 1918, 25 sqn was flying DH4 light Bomber/Recce aircraft, and at that period was mostly doing Photo recce work. The DH4 was then state of the art and was treated as a long range aircraft. They worked the full length of the British front, and deep into hostile airspace. Though commemorated on a gravestone here in Northenden, where his father lies, Lt. Guest is buried at Lapugnoy Military Cemetery, in the Pas de Calais. The squadron had been at an airfield about three miles from there, Lozinghem, or was it Boisinghem?

“We will remember”* **1914-1919*

There are a number of events in Northenden to mark the centenary of the beginning of the Great War of 1914-19.

The service at 10.30am on 3rd August at St.Wilfrid’s will be a time for remembrance and reflection ~ hymns, prayers, readings

That afternoon, at 12.30pm at the War Memorial on Palatine Rd. the Rev. Tim Nichols will be leading a service of remembrance.

There is a display about the Great War in St.Wilfrid’s church. A booklet giving some of the stories of those commemorated in the churchyard is also available from the church.

WFM Radio (97.5fm) has a series from that book in July & early Aug.

The bells of St.Wilfrid’s will be rung, half muffled in mourning, in the evening of 4th August.

And Northenden British Legion will hold a candle-lit vigil at the War Memorial from 10pm on Mon. 4th at the time when war was declared .

Magpie ...

... was delighted to drop in on the wedding of Jessica Cooke to Joe Mather, which was a rather special event. Yes, he knows that every wedding is a special event, but this one was special for a different reason too. Jess and Joe had been planning to marry some time in 2015 or 2016, ... until her grandfather won a competition in the Manchester Evening News for all the trappings of a wedding. And so, on the best day of the summer so far, here they were, tying the knot before God and in front of over a hundred friends and relations, and the serried ranks of MEN photographers. The flowers were imaginative and superb; the dress stunning; the car vintage. A splendid occasion! But Magpie was bemused that the one thing MEN did not pay for was the service itself, which was probably the smallest item on the bill.

... is always interested in the weather, since we get quite a lot of it. So too is the Government. In their efforts to show how well they look after us, through agencies such as the NHS and the meteorological office, they now issue warnings in all kinds of lurid colours. Be careful ... it's going to be hot/cold/wet/dry/polleny/fluey/... and no doubt may other. Magpie wonders, however, whether it is the Great British public that is supposed to benefit from the warning, or the Treasury. If we get too hot/cold/wet/fluey, then we might turn up in A&E, or even (if the dragons at the door permit) at our GP surgeries, and that will cost money. So we are told how to use the sun: go out in it without sun-block for 10 minutes, to top up your vitamin D levels (that's the healthy bit), and then oil liberally with factor 50 and stay out for half an hour turning gently to brown all over, and drink plenty of water. (A year ago they might have said a cool soft drink ~ but now sugar is seen as a lethal drug and may soon be banned.) Magpie rarely agrees with the Daily Mail, but thinks they have hit the nail on the head this time: "Most Brits," they say, "know exactly how to use the sun. They will bask in it with a cold beer at their elbows for as long as they like."

... understands that Northenden is so short of school places for five year olds that some were offered places at Broad Oak, in East Didsbury. Now Manchester, it seems, believes children go to school carried on the wings of crows, so the less than one mile flight direct to East Didsbury across the Mersey is a doddle, isn't it? Real children go by bus if they cannot walk, and that is two bus rides, almost four miles and 55 minutes to cover. Perhaps next year's parents, and this year's grandparents, should be lobbying their councillors to create more places, urgently.

Paddy took two stuffed dogs to the Antiques Road Show. "What a rare example of a famous taxidermist's work," said the expert. "Any idea what they would fetch if they were in good condition?" "Sticks," said Paddy.



Well, hello again, God,
yes, it's me again ...

I'm still here. I haven't forgotten you.
You can't get away from me that easily ~ mind you, from what
they say, you wouldn't want to, would you?
And I don't suppose you've forgotten me either.

But it's awful! Why did you allow it?
It's this war thing they keep on about, *and* it was 100 years ago!
Why keep on reminding ourselves about it?
There's no-one around now who remembers ~
well, nearly no-one.
Why keep on bringing it back?

OK. I suppose if we forget we might do it all over again ~
though to look at the TV that's just what they are doing ...
and it's not nice.

Why? Couldn't they have talked about it?
Couldn't they have stopped before it got too far?
Oh, I know. Once they'd started getting their armies all keyed
up they couldn't stop them. Bosh!
Hadn't they heard about the Grand Old Duke of York?
He marched them back again.

People get so full of themselves, so stubborn.
Yes, I know it happens on the playground too,
When someone starts bullying, but that's different ...
Or is it?

Why couldn't you stop it?
What's that? "Blessed are the peacemakers."?
You mean you've given us the clues already?
It's up to us to make peace?
That's a big ask, you know ~ even in the playground sometimes.

But you do want us to try, then?

Honest?

Northenden Methodist Church

Minister: The Revd. Tim Nicholls,
5 Kenworthy Lane, Northenden, M 22
0161 **945-6600**

Sunday Services.

Usually# 1st Sunday every month

Family worship ~ Sunday breakfast club ~ MESSY
CHURCH

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 the first Sunday is a bank holiday or a school holiday, check with Amy to see if alternative arrangements have been made.

Aug. 3rd. 11.00am Holy Communion The Rev. Tim Nicholls.
6.30pm United Service at St.Wilfrid's

10th 11.00am The Rev. Margaret Hall

17th 11.00am Mrs Chris Goddard

24th 11.00am The Rev. Tim Nicholls

31st 11.00am Mrs. Angela Clowes

Sep. 7th 9.00am MESSY CHURCH ?? to be confirmed.

##

11.00am Holy Communion The Rev. Tim Nicholls.

6.30pm United Service **at St.Wilfrid's****

14th 11.00am Morning Worship ##

** Northenden Players are beginning their season on 7th, so the Methodist Vestry and Hall are in use and a service there would be interrupted.

September's preaching roster is not yet available. Details later.

Community Lunches

Wed. August 13th ~ 12 noon till 1.30pm
and then Wed. Sept. 10th
(Details to be confirmed)

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.

On Thursdays also, at 10am, there is a communion service.

The Nigerian Anglican "Restoration" Congregation meets weekly at **12.30pm** for about 1½ hours in St. Wilfrid's Church. The service includes traditional and modern music.

Aug. 3rd 10.30am A Service of Remembrance and Reflection
100 Years on.

6.30pm United Service at St. Wilfrid's

10th 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

17th 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

24th 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

31st. 10.30am Morning Prayer

6.30pm Holy Communion

Sep. 7th 10.30am Family Communion and ? Parade Service.

6.30pm United Service **at St. Wilfrid's**

14th 10.30am Holy Communion and Prayers for Healing.

6.30pm Evening Worship.

Drop in on St.Wilfrid's ...

On Sundays from 2.30 till 5.00pm

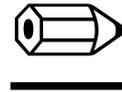
the church is open

for private prayer, for enquiries, or just to look around.

To visit at other times, please contact the Rector.

On Boat Race Day, 24th, the Tower will be open too.

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all happening!



The next **Women's Group** will be in September,
and the next **Bible Study** on 10th Sept., 8pm in the Rectory.

Church Council (**PCC**) meets on Thurs. 21st Aug. 7.30pm, Hall.

Cream Tea Sat. 9th August, 2 – 4pm, Church Hall

Farmers' & Street Market, Sat. 2nd Aug. 10am

Memorial Service for Peter McNiven, Thursday 28th Aug. 11.00am

**Heritage Open Days at St.Wilfrid's ~ 13th & 14th Sept.
p.m.**

Registers ...

Baptisms ~

on Sunday 13th July ... Chloe Eastwood.

and Sunday 20th July ... Poppy Mae Hazlehurst

Married, in the Parish Church on July 18th ...

Jessica Leigh Cooke to Joseph Derek Mather.

In Memoriam;

Dr. Peter McNiven (late of Hollyway)

Albert Lidyard (90) Consul St., Margaret Bracegirdle

Sin.

G.S.F.

In sermons in June and July I looked at some of the key points about the Christian faith, and I want to put those points on paper for wider attention. It is all too easy to focus in Concord on newsy items, as in Magpie, or on history, as with the series on Remembrance. Both are worth-while, but so too is the core of our faith and our relationship with God. So what follows is vital ~ in the literal sense of the word, in that it gives life ~ the key to the richer life we enjoy because of the relationship with God for which we were created.

I spoke about forgiveness. This is not just a shrug of the shoulders with the words, "Oh, it doesn't matter. Don't worry." No, it's recognising that we have been hurt, but deliberately (and perhaps repeatedly) saying, "I'm not going to let it scar me any more; I'm tossing it away." It does not depend on someone else's apology. It is made possible because we know that God, through Jesus, has forgiven us, and accepted us, and that gives us the security not to be hurt by other people.

I also spoke about repentance. Again this is a churchy word, and that can mask from us what it really means. It is not just, "Oh, I got that wrong, and I wish I hadn't." It may include that, as we accept that we have hurt someone else. But it is more; it is a change of mind and attitude ~ that's what the word meant on Jesus' lips ~ a change of direction. And it is a change of direction in the big things of life as well as the smaller niggles. It may mean a recognition of how selfish and self-centred we can be, and so lead to a decision to change that (again, it may need to be repeated again and again.). Someone put it this way ~ it is taking a capital "I" ~ the "I" of our lives ~ and putting a line through it, as we take the hint made by Jesus' cross. And again it is possible for us to do this because we are given the assurance that we are valued and accepted by God, and will not lose face with him (whatever other people say) when we recognise that Jesus' death on the cross shows how far he was prepared to go to make us part of his way of thinking and acting.

And I suggest it needs a bigger change of attitude too ~ as we reject the prevailing mood in our country which laughs at the idea of a god, and scoffs at the church, or religion in general. As we affirm in the creeds in our services, there is a God, whatever the Richard Dawkinses of this world say, and he created the awesome and wonderful world around us, and in Jesus he has

come to share in its hurts and problems and to show a way of sorting them out.

But it is sin that I want to highlight in this article. It is built into the symbols and pictures of a baptism service as we begin our life in the church. We speak of the way the effects of sin are washed away, and portray that in the washing of baptism. If we need to forgive, it is because we have been sinned against, and if we need to repent it is because we recognise that we ourselves sin, and are part of a world which is rebels against God.

But the most important thing we can say about sin, as St. Paul reminds us in Romans ch. 8, is that we need not fear any condemnation for it from God, if we identify ourselves with Jesus through our trust in him, because what God did through Jesus makes amends for what we do, and think, wrong. That is not to say that it does not matter ~ rather that it is not the last word in our relationships with Him and with each other.

I have met a number of people who tell me that they have not sinned. Now, God's word tells us that all have sinned, and fallen short of God's glory, so I am not inclined to believe them. What they mean is that they have not broken any of the ten commandments, so far as they are aware, ... they have not stolen anything, or been unfaithful in marriage, let alone killed anyone or perjured themselves in court. So far so good, but have they looked with envy on what others have got or have achieved, or have they said something about neighbours which belittles them, puts them down or gives a false impression? And have they worshipped God wholeheartedly, or used him for their own ends, and have they allowed others the rest and refreshment we all need one day in seven?

I believe those commandments are not there as rules to keep for their own sake, so that we sin when we fail to keep them. I think they are (you might say) a fence around people, for people's sake, to protect us and them from broken and hurtful relationships ~ with God and with each other. Jesus identified the Sabbath, of the fourth commandment, as something given for human benefit; people do not exist for the Sabbath's benefit. In so far as we all break faith with each other and with God, we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory God intended for us.

And to give sin its full part in the picture of our lives we need to see how we are its victims also, and that that can scar us. And we should accept that this world, for all its wonder and goodness, is marred by the human wrongdoing in which we have our small part. That has built up a momentum which threatens us all and draws us all in.

So we have broken faith with God and each other, and are caught up by the way sin ensnares us. But God will not cut us off because of that. He keeps faith with himself, and his loving creative self, since he made us for a friendship with him, and to support each other in our lives, and he invites us to come to faith in him ~ not just saying, "Oh, I reckon he's there, somewhere." No, faith is coming to trust him and allow him to rebuild his relationship with us through the way we live our lives. It is breaking the pull of that snare.

That does involve recognising that there is sin ~ broken relationships ~ in our lives. It also means recognising that he has already done something through Jesus' death to make amends for that. It means having a change of heart, and seeing that he is central to the way we think and live ~ through worship, and sharing with his community, and trying to create wholesome relationships with those we come across ~ all within the setting of knowing that he is already waiting to welcome us and help us to do just that. "There is now no condemnation for those who are involved with Christ Jesus." Once again, we are not floundering on our own. There is a firm basis for our confidence that the wrong in our lives is not the last word about us. We are able to recognise our involvement in sin (our own or the world's), and turn away from it to Him, on the strength of his promise of love and forgiveness and welcome, his guidance and help to get things right.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

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 Peter Todhunter (Meeting House Warden) 834-5797