

CONCORD ~ August 2015

Prayer for the Month,

O God, who have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass human understanding;
pour into our hearts such a love towards you,
that loving you above all things
we may receive your promises,
which exceed all that we can long for or deserve.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.

0161 **998 2615**

Dear Friends,

A number of people have been kind enough to enquire about our retirement plans, and wish us well. Thank you for your interest and kind words. Our plans are not yet finalised (though they may be by the time you read this.) I am thinking in terms of farewell items in October, inviting particular groups of people to particular events ~ those whom I have married, or baptised, perhaps ~ as well as a church do, and a community do. A concert is now lined up, too.

Meanwhile, August is traditionally a holiday month, though for many of us the clear distinction between work and holiday is not so relevant now. Perhaps, however, the slight change in our thoughts, if not our timetable, will give us the chance to think not just of holidays but of holy days, and so the excuse to take time to be a bit more holy (as the old hymn goes) perhaps by reading one of the Gospels right through as you would a novel, and thinking (and praying) about it as a whole story. This year Mark is the 'set text,' as it were, in our church readings ~ or try Luke as a well told tale.

I have written about my own move from Northenden. Readers might also be interested to know of Margaret Young's move, from being vicar of St.Luke's in Benchill to a pair of parishes in east Yorkshire, near her parents. Her final service at St.Luke's is on Sun. 9th August at 4.30pm., and she takes up her new role on 2nd September.

But now read on!

Greg Forster

Church Road Chippy

78 Church Rd., Northenden

Fish, chips, peas, sausages, pies, ...

Best quality food tel. 0161 998-4630

Magpie ...

... has been prompted to think a bit about education lately. He notes that the Secretary of State claims that 80% of schools are good or better. That means, roughly speaking, that 30% of good schools are below average. But she wouldn't put it that way, would she?

... has heard that the Secretary of State for Education, and Ofsted, are worried by the number of teachers leaving the profession early, and the difficulty of recruiting new teachers. Perhaps the solution is in their own hands. There is a lovely poem (if that is the right word) which good teachers often have pinned to their desks: Magpie can't remember it all but it goes roughly, "If you praise a child he will do better; if you criticise a child she will become discouraged; ..." ... and more of the same. But when it comes to teachers, the DfE motto seems to be the very opposite: blame them for failure, move the goalposts, not "education" but criticism, criticism, criticism."

... there are quite a number of Assets in the Community of Northenden. So, at least, is the reckoning of our Neighbourhood Forum, and Magpie is inclined to agree with them, up to a point. The trouble with assets is that they have to be maintained, and so become liabilities too. Recent legislation allowed communities to register land or buildings as Assets, with a capital A, and so to claim first refusal if they come up for sale. The Forum voted at its July meeting to do this for the former library, for the toilets on Mill Lane, and the former school site off Roundwood Rd. It is also looking actively into schemes to bring the toilets back into use, since here clearly they are an asset to the local community, and to the more transient "community" of walkers, cyclists and dog-walkers on the Trans-Pennine Trail.

The fly in the ointment is that a Council department has apparently agreed for them to be demolished (free of charge!) by the contractor on the Camperlands site. Is that pure altruism, or do they think they lower to tone of their development, or is it a typical example of Town Hall mandarins not thinking of the needs of the people whom they serve. Letters of protest are flying through the ether as we speak. What action might be taken? Should Magpie suggest a sit-in? If the municipal vandalism does take place, should a blue plaque be erected in their memory?

... but while a set of functioning public toilets would be a true asset to our park, and while funding for their maintenance does seem a possibility, Magpie does wonder how some of the other ideas would work out. If the council can't find £50K p.a. to staff, repair and maintain a library, would our community, of just 7,000 or so people, be able to do so? And what would it be used for that cannot be done in the half dozen or more existing public meeting places in Northenden? But as a car park? Maybe!

... takes an interest in foxes. After all, they are rivals in the hunt for what humans throw out for the birds. But he hears that the Rector has had a number of close encounters with them lately. Very close! One, a cub, popped out from behind the sofa while he was reading in front of the TV the other day. Since the Rectory cats often explore there, that's what he "saw" at first ~ a ginger cat ~ but very quickly his eyes corrected his brain, and the "cat's" long mask told him it was vulpine. But it did not go away. Several times now it has ventured into the kitchen, helped itself to the cats' lunch, and scampered past his feet to safety.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

South Manchester Meeting

There is a meeting for worship at 10.30am every Sunday.

at the Friends' Meeting House, Wythenshawe Rd.,
Children welcome.

**** Details from Lesley Thompson, 445 6778**

The main hall and smaller room are available for hire;

~ contact: area Meeting office 834-5797

e-mail: office @ manchesterquakers . org . uk

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 activities with your child(ren) followed by a story, songs, and prayer based on the activities
For details contact Amy Carline, 07816 888 704

If the first Sunday clashes with a school holiday, check with Amy to see if different arrangements have been made.

Aug. 2nd 11.00am Morning Service; Mr. John Ream
6.30pm United Service at St. Wilfrid's.

9th 11.00am Morning Service; Mrs. Mary Langton

16th **10.30am** Service at Lawton Moor; Mrs. Sarah Hooks

23rd 11.00am Holy Communion; the Rev. Tim Nicholls

30th 11.00am Mr. John Harrison
6.30pm Taize service; the Rev. Tim Nicholls.

Sept. 6th 11.00am Details to be announced. **
6.30pm United Service at Methodist Church

13th 11.00am Details to be announced. **

** As Concord goes to press, the autumn roster is not available.

Community Lunches

Wed. Aug. 12th 12.00 noon – 1.30pm
Next lunch; Wed. Sept. 9th (To be confirmed)

And two non-Church event for your diaries:

*Tues. 11th Aug. "A Walk in the Woods" ~ Rose Hill Woodland
7.00pm, meet at the entrance on Bronington Close, near
the gates to Ashley Grange/Rose Hill house.
and; **Northenden Boat Race.** Sun. 30th Aug. Starting at Simon's
Bridge, 1.00pm, Events and activities at the Riverside Park and
on the Village Green, including a bouncy castle and
trips up St. Wilfrid's tower, all in aid of Christie hospital*

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

Website: www . stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk

*And follow us ~ like us, befriend us even ~ on Facebook –
www.facebook.com/pages/St-Wilfrids-Northenden/208920952481082*

Services:

On Sundays there will be a communion service at 8.00am
(except Aug. 16th).

On Thursdays also, at 10am, there is a communion service.
(except Aug. 13th and 20th.)

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.

There are also activities for children.

Workers' Conference, 29th & 30th August.

- Aug. 2nd 10.30am Family Communion
6.30pm United Evening Worship, @ St. Wilfrid's
- 9th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship
- 16th** 10.30am Morning Prayer **(no 8.00am service)**
6.30pm Evening Worship
- 23rd 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship
- 30th 10.30am Morning Prayer
6.30pm Holy Communion
- Sept. 6th 10.30am Family Communion
6.30pm United Service at Methodist Church
- 13th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship.

Drop in on St. Wilfrid's ...

On Sundays from 2.30 till 5pm 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 DAYS: Sept. 12th, 13th, afternoons.
But the Tower will be open on Aug. 30th ~ boat race day.**

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all happening! 

Wed. 5th Aug. P.C.C. meeting ~ Hall, 7.30pm

Mon. 7th **Sept.** Women's Group ~ **7.30pm** Rectory
(See Sue's note ~ speaker, Alan Hewett)

Sat. 12th, **Open Day.** 12 noon till 6pm ("Heritage Open Days")

Sun. 13th, **Open Day,** 2.00 till 6.00pm ("Heritage Open Days")

Registers ...



In Memoriam.

Irene Simon (ex Marylon Dr) 93, Hilda Mason (ex Bucklow Dr) 95,
Doreen Johnson (Monaco Dr) 76.

Married, in the Parish Church, on 27th June ...

Natalie June Leanne Flynn-Welsh to Andrew David Haymes

Baptised, on Sun. 5th July in the parish church

Rees Michael Williams, Oscar Logan Wells,
Otto Elliot Brumby.

*And on Sun. 12th July, by the Rt. Rev. Evans Ibeagha,
bishop of Nike, Nigeria:*

Nathan Ifechukwude Chidera Anumba,
Michael Tamunoerienaoomie Dabipi,
Chinecherem Faith Okwelogu.

*Confirmed, at St. Paul's Church, Withington
by the Rt. Rev. Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton*

John Roderick Knight, Della Holden (also baptised)
St. Wilfrid's School G.S.F,

As some readers may know, our Church primary school was subject to an "Ofsted" inspection in May.

I find myself in something of a cleft stick in this connection. The report is publicly accessible on the Ofsted website, but the school's governors have been told by City Council officers that they should not comment on it, but refer to the Council's press office. When approached the press office said they had no press release to issue, and added, rather snootily I thought, that they would not give one to a "member of the public" anyway. One of the report's most significant criticisms of the school was that it failed to communicate with its parents, and recommended that information should be shared more effectively.

And the report was very critical. (Though the school has been almost equally critical of itself and had appropriate remedies in place.) Let me restrict myself to a factual account of its assertions and their consequences, without further comment. Basically it found the school was not up to scratch, and needed special action to correct the deficiencies they saw.

This finding triggers action by the Local Authority to appoint an interim management board which will take over from the existing governors. If they fail to do this (which in theory they could decline to do) the Government will take them to task. Other interested parties have right to be consulted. The Governors and the Church Council have voiced objections. The diocese is simply taking a pragmatic line and is proposing its nominees for this board.

As I write, that is where the situation is. Assuming this board's appointment is confirmed by the Secretary of State, it will take charge early next term. Given the declared policy of this government, Nicky Morgan is unlikely not to do this. In the longer term their intention will be to remedy all the school's shortcomings and to convert it into an academy, linked with other academies for support. We have been promised that this process will retain the Church character and links of the school. Ideally this should not take more than a year.

Meanwhile, the children, headteacher and staff are to be congratulated this year on achieving their best "SATs" results ever under the present style of SATs assessment.

Women's Group ~ *Sue writes...*

Thank you to everyone who came to the summer party, even though we couldn't barbecue much; and congratulations to Della, both for her delicious rice and for her confirmation!

There will be no meeting in August, but on Sept. 7th Alan Hewett, a financial advisor, will give us a talk intriguingly entitled "Tax, Care and Toy Boys." Come and listen if you have a problem with any of those!

St. Wilfrid's Church ~ Open Days.

Once again we will be joining in with the national
"Heritage Open Days"
to open St. Wilfrid's to all-comers ~ free, as always.

The tower will be open, with guided trips up it,
And displays of our village and church history and what is going
on here at the present time will be on show.

Book the dates now, come along, bring a friend,
and enjoy what you see, and what you eat!

Sat. 12th Sept. 12 noon – 6pm, **Sun. 13th Sept.** 2 - 6pm.

*And before then, the tower will be open on Boat Race
Sunday, 30th August, from about 2.00pm onwards*

I believe 6. ... The Communion of Saints.

It might be easy to overlook this part of Christian belief. It is not just that we believe in God, and in Jesus as his son, but we believe in the community which he established. That is part of our message, embarrassing though that may sometimes be. Being involved in the Church is part of being involved with God and being a Christian. That Church is catholic, not in the narrow sense of being Roman, but in the proper sense of that word: it is worldwide and all-embracing. We are part of a community which is not simply based in England! At St. Wilfrid's now especially that should be obvious. And it is holy, not in the sense of always being right or pious, but because that is what involvement with God makes us ~ his holiness is contagious. We are made holy, made saints by him. As such we are a *communion*. OK, let's unpack that churchy jargon. We are *shareholders* in this

company, this *team* that is Christ's people, across time and space and eternity, and so should work as *partners* to make a go of it. If that's what we believe in, that's what we should live out.