

D e c e m b e r      2 0 0 7

**Cover Picture;** Ho! Ho! One bit of Christmas! (by John Hill-Wilson)

Prayer for the Month.

All praise to you, almighty God and heavenly king, who sent your Son into the world to take our human nature and to be born of a pure virgin;

Grant that as we are born to a new life in him, so his life may continually dwell in us, and reign in our lives and on earth as he reigns in heaven,

with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever,  
Amen

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.

0161 998 – 2615

D ear F riends,

As we come to the end of another year, can I thank everyone involved in distributing Concord this year? Can I also invite your contributions, either as advance notice of events, articles, or tit-bits of news for Magpie to pick over next year? And can I give advance notice that the cover price will go up to 40p (after a longish spell at 35p) in January. It still remains at the lower end of the parish magazine price range but (we hope) at the higher end for quality!

And as it looms over the horizon, can I wish you a happy Christmas? As always it seems too early (even on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, let alone mid-November when I am writing this). Some of the shops did start in early November, so a warning: check that the best before date on those Christmas chocolates is not Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>!.

Yours faithfully, Greg Forster

**N** orthenden **M**ethodist **C**hurch.

Palatine Road.

Minister: the Revd. David Bown,

**5 Kenworthy Lane, Northenden, M 22 4 JF**

**0161 998 – 2158**

Sunday Services.

9<sup>th</sup>. 11.00am The Revd. David Bown

16<sup>th</sup> 11.00am The Revd. David Sanders

23<sup>rd</sup> 11.00am Carol Service Mrs. Carol Jack

Christmas Day; 10.30am Mr. John Howell

30<sup>th</sup> 11.00am The Revd. Margaret Hall; Holy Communion

Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> 2008 11.00am Morning Service

5.30pm United Service @ Northenden Methodist Ch.

## COMMUNITY LUNCHESES ...

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in December ~

12<sup>th</sup> 12 noon to 1.30pm Christmas Dinner

Fun Bingo: Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> Nov., noon to 2.00pm.

## 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 Lesley Thomson (tel.)

The main hall and smaller rooms are available for hire;

~ contact Peter Todhunter (Meeting House Warden) 834-5797,

Wythenshawe Quaker Meeting has recently changed its name to South Manchester Quaker Meeting. Also please note that the contact name has changed from Enid Pinch to Lesley Thomson in our advert.

We will as usual be holding a short Meeting for Worship with readings and carols on Christmas morning at 10.30. I would be glad if you would include this in the December Concord.

In Peace and Fellowship

Enid Pinch

Clerk

South Manchester Quaker Meeting.

## **Born Again**

G.S.F

Did you notice the phrase in this month's prayer about being "born again in Christ"? It is a nice phrase, which chimes in neatly with the message of Christ's birth at Bethlehem, but what is it actually saying? And what about the seemingly converse idea, found in some carols, that Christ might be born in us, as well as in some historic stable?

For Christ to be born in us means that either as a conscious commitment, or perhaps in a gradual dawning of awareness, we let the ideas and attitudes which we see in Christ's life and teaching take shape in our thinking, and reshape our living. It may involve not just the prayer of the carol "be born in us today" but acting on our own prayer, to find out what Christ would have thought or done about a particular situation. The obvious way to do this is to read and think about and act on what we see in the Gospels, but it could mean talking and asking about it too. It may mean a conscious choice of changing how we think or act.

For us to be born again in Christ is not just a matter of accepting and adopting Christ's teaching; it is recognising and receiving the benefits of what he has done for us. Logically it should come first, as we recognise and express how we do not live up to Christ's expectations, but are forgiven and welcomed all the same because of his self-giving, loving death. We then begin a new relationship ~ a new life, a growing awareness of his presence, guidance and support ~ in grateful friendship with him. In practice it is often his teaching which attracts us first, and only later do we see how his welcome and forgiveness means ~ has meant ~ a new start as crucial as our birth.

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## St. Wilfrid's Church,

*Ford Lane. (Off Church Rd.)*

Rector: Greg Forster (998-2615)

Organist: Arthur Mellor (928-0472)

www . stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk

### Services:



Communion on Sundays at 8.00am,  
and on Thursdays at 10.00am

There is a "Sunday Club" for 7 – 11+ year olds in the Rectory at 10.30am, for about an hour, and ...

... "Scramblers", for children from 3½ to 6+, meets in the Church Hall from 10.30 till about 11.30am., except when there is a Family Service (for parents and children together) in Church.

9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Holy Communion
	5.30pm Evening Worship
16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Holy Communion & Baptism



## F rom the Registers ~ I n Memoriam ...

Joyce Allsop (Llandudno) 77, Barbara Mather (Ford La.) 76,  
Kenneth Price (Chretien Rd.) 80, Stella Lees (Marylon Dr.) 70.

Christmas is coming ...                      ... some ideas. Greg Forster.

... so can I make three suggestions. The first is that if you have any reasonably good old warm clothes, or blankets and the like, that could be passed on to street people in Manchester ~ and they are mostly men ~ that would be most welcome, and will be taken to drop in centres some time soon after the 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. Secondly, Cup-a-soups, tea, sugar &c., for this cause would be good too.

The third suggestion is that Poinsettias make excellent Christmas decorations in church, and as in previous years, if you would like to contribute one of these plants to the decorations, it would be most welcome. ( But please do not bring them too early; last year I think we had to throw a couple out before Christmas because they had gone over ! )

In either case, please do not try to make special arrangements to bring these items: if you cannot bring them when you come to an actual service you will find the church open on Sunday afternoons between 2.00pm and dusk.

## M a g p i e ...

... is not sure whether he has mentioned in this column to rumour that he had heard that not only were two of the protagonists of the Peterloo protest meeting / massacre to be found buried in Northenden Churchyard ~ Absalom Watkin and Joseph Johnson ~ but also one of the antagonists too ~ one of the militia officers. Lately he has tried to demonstrate this, by comparing lists of the officers mentioned in four different histories of the event with the burial registers. He drew a blank (though the lists of the militia in the books were not complete by any means). If it was someone in the Cheshire Yeomanry that was intended, however, it appears that they got to the scene too late to do anything. However, one of the magistrates involved was a local, and is buried here ~ Thomas W. Tatton, who died in 1827, aged 44. From the books, it would seem that he played only a minor role, if any, in the decision of the senior Lancashire magistrate to send in the troops. He was buried, it would seem, in the family vault, underneath the chapel.

... is glad to see that the Northenden Players Theatre Club has been able to find new accommodation at the Methodist Church Hall. This offers possibly more space for plays and audience, though less for storing props, &c.

... understands that their old little theatre has been decoupled from the main Tatton Arms property, but beyond that has no information about its future. It has recently been called the Boat House (or Boathouse). I doubt whether this is correct. The old Inn itself was The Boathouse, before its rebuilding and renaming as the Tatton Arms at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> cent. The Boat, or ferry, was run from the opposite corner of the Inn, and I suspect the boat was stored close too. It was, you see, a chain ferry, working on a cable which allowed it to be used from either side of the river.

... but what the theatre was built as is another matter. Was it a stable cum coach house? If so, it has lost the stable doors it must have had (and which would have been needed for a boat, too). Or was it a malt-house or brew-house for the inn? Perhaps, but where was the chimney? What is there is rather small for a kiln.

... avid readers of Magpie may recall the discussion a few months ago as to whether the hedgehog (or househog) patronising the Rectory utility room was Tigfried or Tiglinda. Well, it would seem that Tiglinda had something to do with it, since noises in the conservatory recently revealed a row of three little hedgehog backsides, eagerly tucking in at their frontside ends to a plate of cat food that had been put there, in pursuit of their lifetime's ambition of being large hedgehogs ~ despite the frost and the received wisdom that hedgehogs hibernate.

... has noted the record earlier in this edition of Concord of the death of Joyce Allsop. Though it is many years since she lived in Northenden ( she had to move to her grandmother's in Gatley when she was 5 or 6 ) she has always been proud of her connections here, not least that five generations of her family, Swan or Steele, were buried in the churchyard in graves which she attempted to maintain ( and we recently discovered two more of them, from the early 19<sup>th</sup> cent. ) ~ and now she is the sixth, buried with her grandparents on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>.

... overheard some comments on 11<sup>th</sup> November about the Remembrance Day wreath-laying at the war memorial in Northenden not being at 11.00am. He cannot vouch for the

distant past, but for many years now the parade outside has followed a full service inside one of the local churches, at which the two minutes silence has been observed at the appropriate time. There may (in the dim memory of a rumour) have been once, many years ago, when a service at the Methodist Church started at 10.45 and finished at 10.55 in order for the parade to get out in time ~ but what a shambles that must have been!

But what about this year, when there was no formal marching and no band? Magpie understands that there are problems now about arranging cover and protection for a formal march on our increasingly busy streets ~ but was glad to see that the crowd simply blocked Palatine Rd. for the relevant two minutes, like it or not. Bands? He does not know, except that they are harder to come by nowadays. And marching? Without being disparaging, for many veterans now it would be little more than an honest but dignified hobble, and to spare them the struggle the churches and the Legion branch now expect the annual service to be at the Methodist church, just opposite the memorial, with Methodist ministers leading the church service.