

CONCORD ~ December 2011



Illustration:~ a wry look at the secular Xmas

Prayer for the Month ...

"Peace on earth," we pray, Lord, with the angels of Bethlehem, and "goodwill to mankind"; we lift to you places and people across your world where there is no goodwill or respect, no peace or harmony, no willingness to find reconciliation between individuals or communities. Grant us your peace.

"Glory to God in high heaven," we pray, Lord, with the angels of Bethlehem; on our lips and in our lives may we give you the glory and honour, and see your kingdom come and your will done, in our lives, in our relationships, our communities and our world; for your name's sake. Amen.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.

0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

In the lead up to Christmas can I invite you to support two ideas: one is to decorate St. Wilfrid's with Poinsettias ~ bring one when you come for the service, or on a Sunday afternoon; the other, more important, is to support homeless people around Manchester with such things as cup-a-soups, or warm clothes; a box for them will go into church between 27th Nov & 18th Dec.

So, best wishes for Christmas,

Greg Forster

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 Roger Hensman, 980-5158.

The main hall and smaller rooms are available for hire;

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

On Sunday 25th December ~ Christmas Day ~

**There will be a meeting for worship, with readings
and carols ~ as usual all are welcome.**

In Memoriam;

Richard Noble (Parnell Ave.) 80.

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 on 1st January);

On Thursdays at 10am there will also be a communion service.

We run "Scramblers" ~ which I mustn't call a Sunday School ~
for children from 3½ to 7 ~ in the Church Hall, ...

... and "Sunday Club" ~ for children from 7 upwards ~ in the
Rectory between 10.30 and 11.30am Sundays ...

... except when there is a Family Service in church ~ i.e. 25th
Dec. & 1st Jan.

Dec. 4th 10.30am Family Communion & Parade Service

"God has Spoken" (Bible Sunday).

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

11th 10.30am Holy Communion

"The Beginning of the Gospel"

3.00pm Inaugural service for a Nigerian Congregation.

6.30pm Evening Worship.

18th 10.30am Holy Communion

3.00pm Christmas Carol Service

No service at 6.30pm

Christmas Eve ~ Saturday 24th Dec.

"Midnight" Communion, 11.30pm.

Christmas Day ~ Sunday 25th Dec.

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Communion

No service at 6.30pm

Sunday 1st January 2012

10.30am Family Communion

No service at 8.00am. Evening Service details to be discussed.

8th. 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship
15th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship.

Drop in on St. Wilfrid's ...

**On Sundays from 2.00 till dusk the church is open,
for private prayer, for enquiries, or just to look around.**

But note, of course, the special service arrangements on 11th and 18th December, and on Christmas and New Years Days we will not be open in this way in the afternoons.

A Year of *what* ?



GSF

... should it be Mark, or what? The standard pattern of readings set in the Church of England invites us to read Mark's Gospel during the coming church year (beginning with Advent ~ from Nov. 27th) and I propose to use that framework as a basis for services in St. Wilfrid's, but with variation.

We rarely look at the Old Testament, because of the emphasis on the "Epistle" and Gospel in Communion Services. I plan to step outside this, and deliberately use Old Testament readings and themes perhaps a dozen times during the year. Also, having written a booklet on how to preach on Ethical Issues I intend to follow my own advice, and specifically select a number of moral concerns during the year, and if necessary select specific readings to bring them out, when the standard set readings do not do so anyway.

So Dec. 4th will take a glance at the Old Testament, and on Dec. 11th we shall begin to see what Mark has to say ... and then we're into Christmas for a bit!

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all happening!



NB the "Christmas" Farmers' Market on Dec. 3rd.

Mon. 5th 7.00pm (?) Women's Group (Christmas Party ?) Rectory
Wed. 7th 8.00pm Bible Study, Rectory. (Christmas)
Thur. 8th 7.30pm Folk Music & Carol Concert in Church
Sat. 10th 10am Coffee Morning & Cake Sale for St. Anne's Hospice
Thu. 15th 9.15ish School Christmas Service in Church.

NB No Bible Studies in December after Weds. 7th.

Sun. 18th Carol Service at 3.00pm

No Coffee Morning on Sat. 31st Dec.

2012

Wed. 11th 8.00pm Bible Study Rectory.

Thu. 12th 7.30pm Organ Recital Josh Stephens

In recent editions of Concord I have given notice of the Confirmation here next year. Someone has pointed out to me that I got the date wrong: that Sunday is **17th** not 16th, June.

The Parish Registers –

In Memoriam ...

Albert Duckworth (Newall Green) 83

Paul Wilson (West View) 44.

Rick Sherratt (Morrell Rd.)

Elsie Mitchell (Greenpark Rd.) 83

Baptised ... on Sunday 23rd October ...

Obinna Chysom Ubochi ...

... and on Sunday 20th November ...

Riley Ian Crompton, Oliver John Thompson,
Dillon Armar Johnston.

Women's Group.

Dec. 5th. **Christmas Party 7.00pm**

Bring food for half a person!

But no meeting on Mon. 2nd January 2012.

A New Congregation ...

You will note, in the schedule of services for 11th Dec., the mention of an inaugural service for a Nigerian Congregation. It has been a pleasure over the past year or so to share in worship with the Ven. Gideon Ilechukwu, and other Nigerian friends. There is a good number of Nigerians in Manchester, many of them Anglicans, though they find our English Anglicanism rather unenthusiastic, I'm afraid. The bishop has agreed that a Nigerian Anglican congregation should be established. Bishop Mark will be launching this, with Gideon and Nigerian clergy working in similar ways in Liverpool and London, at a service at 3.00pm on 11th December. More news of that in later editions of Concord, as it develops, but we are invited to join them for that initial service.

Magpie...

... did you sort out for yourself what was special about the grid of numbers on our cover this month? What Magpie had been told was printed in that issue, but someone worked out some more connections. If you create boxes of four numbers in each corner, or in the centre of the grid, they also add up to 33! No wonder people thought it was a rather special, even magical, arrangement.

The question was also raised whether other, similar grids could be created. No-one has suggested any, though of course if you double everything you will get a result of 66, and so on ... triple, quadruple

1	14	14	4
11	7	6	9
8	10	10	5
13	2	3	15

... noted scores of ladybirds still around in October and November, and a whole colony of them trying to hibernate in his spare room. Aren't they a joy to see!

... was told about two ~ yes, two ~ kingfishers on the Northenden stretch of the Mersey last month. They're a joy too!

... is concerned about School Crossing Patrols. The council want to cut funding from them, and transfer it to the schools. The schools point out that to fund patrols off site means there is less money for staff working with children at the chalk face (which is now a hi-tech computerised thing called a white-board). And what happens if one school will fund a crossing, but their neighbours won't, and the children from both are using it? There is a great deal of this going on, as the Government assert that school funding has not been cut, and the Council want to charge schools for things that used to be part of the standard, free, package.

... wonders why it is all right to talk about "white-boards", but politically incorrect to mention a "black-board." In the last few years they've tended to be green, anyway, if they exist at all. He met an administrator once who thought they were "wipe-boards" ~ after all, you did have to wipe the old blackboards!

No. 1 Church Rd ?

GSF

The Wythenshawe Area Committee of the council passed the decision about this development to the full Planning Committee, which meets in the Town Hall on 22nd Dec. Given the high profile of this decision, that is the right procedure to my way of thinking.

On the Run ~ 201.2km Gold Challenge.

Tyrone and Katy McIvor have completed their 201.2km Gold Challenge ~ a sponsored run ~ in aid of Dementia UK, as featured in November's Concord. The collecting "box" is at the back of St. Wilfrid's ~ a blue cylinder.

The Perfect Christmas

Sue Forster

It's Christmas once again, and I'm struck more and more each year about the razzmatazz that drowns out the real meaning of it. Open any magazine or colour supplement and one is immediately bombarded by how to organise the perfect Christmas, what to buy, what to wear, even when to have one's botox treatments and skin peep to look flawless for Christmas parties. How empty and hopw meaningless it all becomes! Surely not the Christmas our parents and grandparents knew!

Christmas cards and gifts, presents and crackers appear in our shops earlier and earlier each year. Advent calendars contain chocolates, and no hint of what Advent is leading up to. People shop as though expecting a siege, run up debts on expensive gifts and food, and all for what?

Let's celebrate and give gifts by all means, but let's remember the true meaning of Christmas and try to convey the awe and the wonder of our Saviour coming to be will us, and really rejoice! A happy Christmas to one and all.

Capers and Carols ~

Thursday 8th December, 7.30pm

in St. Wilfrid's Church.

***Traditional and modern Folk Music, and Carols
for Christmas.***

with Kieron Hartley and Friends

adm. £3.00 in aid of the Booth Centre ~

Manchester Cathedral's work with the city's street people

Refreshments. Sing-along.