

Tuesday Tots ~ a mother & toddler group meeting in St. Wilfrid's hall between 9.15 and 11.15am. £1.50 + 50p per extra child. Coffee, cake, and a civilised chat; toys and activities.

CONCORD ~ *December* 2013

Prayer for the Month

Loving Lord God,
as we thank you for the way you give us joy and gladness through the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son, grant that we may take him to our hearts as redeemer, and look forward with confidence to his welcome and acceptance when he comes to set the world to rights;
for he is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit as the Prince of peace ~ one God in time and eternity.

Amen.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane. 0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

Welcome again to Concord and an early happy Christmas too to everyone.

A reminder that as usual we shall be collecting warm clothing (mostly for men) and bedding, and tea and coffee and soup, and toiletries, &c., to go for use at the Booth Centre at Christmas and after. There is a box at the back of St. Wilfrid's Church, and the goods will be delivered around 16th Dec.

Apologies if you turned up at 11am on Remembrance Sunday for a service *at* the War Memorial. Neither the British Legion Branch nor the Churches were consulted about the posters that went up suggesting that the ceremonies would be *at* that time. If you thought about it, whatever might happen there would not *start* at 11am, but would allow preparation time before the two minutes silence ~ which was in fact observed as part of Church Services as has been the practice all the time I have been in Northenden, and was well established when I came. We did put out posters warning people of the actual arrangements, but we clearly need to be more up-front with them next year.

I switched on half way through a report on the BBC Today Programme in which they were discussing the importance of

Christmas, and how it mattered to keep it ~ then I realised that they were talking about its importance for the retail trade as a time for increased sales, which (it seemed) had been falling of late. I suppose I should not have been shocked ~ that kind of thinking is par for the course now ~ but I was. It is a common-place, I know, for preachers to decry the commercialisation and secularisation of Christmas (Xmas?) but it should still be a shock to see our Lord turned into a commercial incentive. Perhaps one of the modern Christmas readings should be the Palm Sunday reading about his cleansing of the temple! But would that be too much of a shock too? Most people don't get irony, especially in Church.

Can I remind St.Wilfrid's members and friends again that our Family Service in December is a week later than you might expect, on the 8th, and that we hope that our School Choir will be involved. Also warning notice for St.Wilfrid's ~ the time of our Carol Service this year has been changed. The Church Council suggested that we should have it as a joint service with the Nigerian "Restoration Church" congregation, and to fit in with some of them, who will be travelling from Liverpool or Sheffield and are mindful of the early dusk and our English weather, it will start at **1.00pm** not later as in previous years. Our 10.30am service is to be modified that day too.

I should perhaps have let on last month that in the tradition the names of Jesus' grandparents ~ Mary's parents ~ were Joachim and Hannah, and in the imaginative piece which I included then they became Joe and Ann. I don't know where the tradition got those names from, but they must have had names, and those are as good as any for telling the story, which continues in this edition. It's all fiction, of course; but long time ago in Nazareth something a bit like this must have happened, even if the holy bible don't say. And Seph, of course, is Joseph. Two Joes in the same story would be confusing. These scenes are available as a separate booklet, *Long time ago in Nazareth*, in church.

For a fair number of years the cover price of Concord has remained at 45p, despite rising costs, and an increasing deficit in the church's annual accounts. We are no longer breaking even with it, and so from January the cover price for each issue will be 50p, and for the whole year £6.00. This is still, I believe, at the lower end of the parish magazine price range, and a bargain as well (but I am biased about that, after all!) I am planning to make

a few changes in the layout, actually trying them this month, by putting articles and local news earlier in the issue, and diary items and records later ~ for reference rather than as headlines.

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, 07544 223658
or Glyn Humphreys, 07572 126844

Owt for nowt?

The cost of fuel.

G.S.F.

I mentioned radio current affairs in my letter. Here's another item that has run and run this autumn ~ fuel prices. Everyone comes up with ideas for keeping them down. Companies are blamed; cartels are blamed; the Government is blamed (why else have a Government if you can't blame it for everything?). Someone apparently did a consumer survey which asked whether people wanted their fuel prices to go down. The surprise was that a fair percentage did *not* say yes ~ though the majority did. It's a no-brainer, surely ~ like asking a child, Would you like a sweet?

What none of the pundits seems to have realised ~ or at least none of them has the guts to say it ~ is that even if taxes are cut, or a freeze imposed, or companies penalised, so long as demand is rising so will prices. It's like Canute and the tide. Six billion people want cars, warm homes, and plastic gadgets; unless someone gluts the market with cheap fuel, demand for a limited resource will push up the price.

But suppose some economically naïve oil-sheikh did decide to glut the market (and beggar his neighbours too, perhaps.) Would that be a good thing? In the short term he might make friends and influence people, and in doing so gain a political strangle-hold on his customers. But politics apart, is an ever increasing use of this limited resource, which also has a physical impact on the environment, a good thing? I take it as read that global warming

is at least in part due to global over-use of fossil fuels. To deny that there is some connection (on the pretext that the link is not 110% and as well proven as $1 + 1 = 2$) is as blind, and perhaps as culpable, as holocaust denial ~ but that is a different story.

So perhaps it is a *good* thing that energy prices are rising ~ uncomfortable but good ~ if it prompts us to use less, and use it more wisely; if it prompts us to look for energy sources which do not consume in months what took millennia to create, and do not fuel global warming in the process; if it makes us conserve and insulate; if it means we take seriously simple suggestions like wearing an extra layer. Sorry, if you want to score a political point about that, but that is common sense not condescension; who is the better mountaineer? The one who complains that it is too cold at 3000ft, or the one who puts his hat and gloves on?

So, sorry. It is salutary that prices are rising if it makes us use energy more sparingly. What should we be doing about it? Some of what is being done already through those supposedly wicked green taxes, perhaps:

helping individuals who find it hard to pay for their power to use less, more effectively ~ not just making it easier to pay for more:

using what is there literally under our feet (someone in the North West is soon to tap into geo-thermal energy from several miles underground, and if I heard rightly, Manchester Cathedral is already working on this in a small way for its own use.);

finding ways of storing energy, perhaps extending the hydro-electric stations which use off-peak power to pump water uphill, where it provides a head of energy for peak times;

or even burning water! (No, that's not daft; someone in the North-East is using off-peak electricity to separate water into hydrogen and oxygen, which are then burned to create power for peak demands) ...

I could go on; I still have hopes for our weir in Northenden, though there are technical problems. But cheap energy costs the earth ~ and you can't get owt for nowt.

Long time ago, in Nazareth ...

to be continued ...

"You are most welcome, Seph benHeli. Please come in, yes, and please be seated. A cup of wine?"

"To gladden the heart of a man? I should indeed be grateful, master Joachim, for I am glad to be here. We have much to discuss and plan."

"Yes, indeed. We have much to discuss. Yes, much indeed. And, ... er,... I know it is not the done thing, but Ann, please stay. ... I hope you won't mind, Seph."

"If you wish, Joachim, ... Mistress Hannah, I am honoured. But is something wrong, Joachim. I hope I have not offended you somehow."

"Indeed no, Seph. Indeed no. It is, I fear, that we will have offended you. See, ... Miriam ..., er, ... you have perhaps seen lately that she has not, er, ... been, er, ... herself, ..."

"I see her only as you pass the carpentry shop with her, Joachim, or as we meet and talk after synagogue. She has always been most kind with me. I look forward to the day of our marriage, and it has seemed to me that she does too. Is she unhappy? Is she unwell?"

"Let me explain, Joe. You see, Seph, ... no, I don't think she is unhappy, but you might not think all is well with her. We think she goes with child. Yes, she does, ... and she does not deny it herself."

"I ..., ... I ..., er, ... did I hear you aright, Mistress Hannah? Oh, my God! Did I hear you right?"

"Yes, Seph, you did. What my wife says is true, and more, Miriam says it was a messenger from the Almighty who confirmed it to her. Where she got that story from the Almighty only knows, blessed be He, but you will be wanting to break off the betrothal, I'm sure, won't you? We realise that."

"The law says ... yes, the Law says to put her away. That I must do, but, ... oh, let me think, ... but no, we can't make it public. They'd slay her. And who ... ? No, I won't ask. Vengeance is not mine. Yes, the law says, ... I'll make out the papers to give her. But then what? What are you going to do for her? Where can she go? How can you keep her safe. They'll kill her. Oh, Joachim, my heart bleeds for you, for you all? What's going to happen?"

"She's already thought of that for herself. The messenger told her, she says, that Ann's cousin Elizabeth, up in Judah, is expecting. Miriam says to go to visit her, and to help her out, and I'm taking her there after the Sabbath. Yes, well may you shake your head. I'm as lost in all this as you are, but she seems to know her mind. She's deep, is our Miriam; there's more to her than I knew, whatever you make of it."

"But of course, Seph, come in, and welcome. No need to knock. It's been a while. It's good to see you, and I mean it. After all this, how are you? How's business? How are they treating you?"

"I am well, Joe, and business is good. There's work over in Sepphoris new-town. I could almost live over there at the moment. And yourselves? And, if I can ask, I was wondering, have you heard from Miriam?"

"Yes, we are well thank you. And we did hear from Miriam only last week. Someone came by. She is well. She says our Beth is near her time. I don't know what she will do then, whether she will stay."

"Perhaps she would come back, Joe, would she? I've been thinking, ... well dreaming, actually. I'm glad I never got round to making out the papers, ... the divorce papers, ... Joe."

"What do you mean?"

"I still want to take her, Joe. I still want to marry her, if I may. I don't want to put her away, after all."

"How do you mean? You can't, can you? The law says ... This is quite a change!"

"Like I said, Joe. I've been dreaming. She wasn't lying. I've seen a messenger too. 'Don't be afraid,' he says. 'Joseph benDavid,' he calls me. 'You're a descendant of David,' he says. 'Don't be afraid to take Miriam as your wife,' he says. 'It's God's Spirit who is at the heart of all this, and behind this child,' he says in the dream, and it was so real and right, and I've remembered it, even though it was a dream.

"Yes, Joe; well may you look puzzled. I'm the same. I'm blessed if I can understand all this. And God alone knows where it will lead, blessed be he. But Joe, when she comes home, ... yes, ask her to come home, and I'll prove as good a husband to her as I can, and as good a guardian ... father? ... to the child as I may. Yes, benDavid is as good a name to carry as any. Yes, when she comes, with your support we'll arrange the marriage, quiet but honest, and we'll see her right."

"Right? But the law ...? Your good name ...?"

"What is the law for, Joe? It's there to protect people, to protect our Miriam, like a fence. I'll keep that law, Joe."

Northenden Methodist Church

Minister: The Revd. Tim Nicholls,
5 Kenworthy Lane, Northenden, M 22
0161 945-6200

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.

Dec. 1st 9. 00am Messy Church
 11.00am Morning Worship §
 6.30pm United Service at St.Wilfrid's

8th 11.00am Morning Worship §

15th 11.00am Morning Worship §

22nd 11.00am Morning Worship and Carols

Christmas Day 10.30am Morning Service

29th 11.00am Morning Worship §

Jan. 5th # 9. 00am Messy Church #
 11.00am Morning Worship §
 6.30pm United Service at Northenden Methodist Ch.

12th 11.00am Morning Worship §

§ Sorry, details of Preachers are not yet available.

I'm told that a special Messy Church Extra is planned for after school on Monday 9th December; watch out for details. But

what is Messy Church? I gather that it is a chance for parents and children together to explore bible stories, and prayer, (and perhaps breakfast or tea) with some craft work too, informally, and messily. So children, if you want to find out if I am right about this, get hold of your favourite adult and go along.

Community Lunches

Wed. Dec. 11th 12 noon till 1.30pm
(Special Christmas arrangements to be confirmed)

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

**There is a meeting for worship on Christmas day, starting at
10.30am.**

Magpie ...

... bids farewell, sadly, to our old library building, and a cautious welcome to the new provision, inadequate though it will be. The new arrangements at the Parkway Green offices, more than half way to the doctors', are publicised as follows: between 2pm and 5pm on Mondays and Thursdays, and 10am to 1pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, initially.

... but what about the replacement? Not everyone is happy with it! Senior library staff met some of us just before the old one closed in early November. Naturally they are up-beat about it, if only because it is a plan B which is better than their original plan A. 15 hrs of professional librarian time is better than an un-staffed drop off point. For them, Parkway Green offer a free building with as much future security as anyone can offer these days. (Contrast the "Burnage Option" in their present building, which sounded good, until you realised that after one year the

“Friends Group” there would become responsible for funding that building to the tune of several thousand a year.) For us, specialist librarians will be maintaining a toddlers’ reading club, and looking for ways to work with the community and volunteers to extend what is on offer. So, constructive development, or “big society” con? As yet it does not cater for those who work from 9 – 5, but that need has been noted. For those who need a computer to find work, our existing four will be maintained.

... perhaps it is neither constructive nor con, but simply Hobson’s choice. For the moment, if we don’t work with it nothing else is on offer, though our campaigning has achieved this much. For the future? A new library does remain on the Regeneration Team’s wish list for the village ~ perhaps as a joint venture with a commercial outlet, as with other new libraries in the City.

NORTHENDEN

Neighbourhood Forum

Work has been progressing on this. We have been promised funding, and the advice of “Locality”, the Government agency set up to support such groups. The council’s Neighbourhood scrutiny committee met in mid November, and agreed to recommend the establishment of the Forum, but with a much reduced and emasculated area, excluding the Industrial Estate at Sharston. That recommendation goes to the full council at the end of the month, so by the time you read this the Forum should be set up properly. Local representatives tried to persuade them that the logical boundary for the Area should be the Motorways, not the middle of Longley Lane, since the Industrial Estate is such an integral part of the economy of Northenden, and affects the neighbouring houses significantly ~ but they weren’t having it.

It is early yet to map out future developments, but there will be area-wide publicity, a website, the election of a regular committee, and then discussion of ideas and plans for the village.

In this connection, readers might like to know that there is a proposal for development on the Wrengate House site, off Palatine Rd., just beyond Withington Golf Course in W. Didsbury. This involves the demolition of the present building, and the construction of a large number of houses &c on what is a site of special biological interest. The Council’s planning portal has details; [FW103991 Wrengate House Palatine Rd](#)

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.

“**Sunday Club**” ~ for children from 7 upwards ~ meets in the Rectory, between 10.30 and 11.30am Sundays except when there is a Family Service in church (Dec. 8th, Jan. 5th. &c.)

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.

On **Tuesday 31st Dec.** there is a special service ~ a Night of Divine Encounter, ~ starting at 10pm. (doors open 9pm)

- 1st Dec. 10.30am Holy Communion (“**Standard**”)
6.30pm United Evening Worship at St.Wilfrid’s
- 8th 10.30am **Family gettingreadyforChristmas Service & Parade ... with St.Wilfrid’s School Choir.**
6.30pm Holy Communion.
- 15th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship.
- 22nd 10.30am Holy Communion (Said)
1.00pm Carol Service n.b. **1.00pm.**
6.30pm Evening Worship.
- 24th 11.30pm Christmas Eve ~
“Midnight” Holy Communion.
- 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**
8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Family Communion

For Christmas communion at home, contact the rector.

29th 10.30am Morning Prayer (& Carols)
6.30pm Holy Communion

5th Jan. 2014 10.30am Family Communion
6.30pm United Service at Methodist Church.

12th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship.

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

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all

happening!



Sat. 30th Church Fair in the Hall. 11.00am – 1.30pm
NOVEMBER With the usual stalls, and food ~
Come along, and bring your friends.

Mon. 2nd Dec. Women's Group Christmas Do 7.00pm

Wed. 4th Dec. Bible Study in the Rectory, 8.00pm

Note the Farmers' & Street Market,
on Sat. 7th Dec., 10.00am – 4.00pm in the usual place,
with additions and celebrations
including a Tree, and a lights' switch-on at 4.30pm, band,
choir and DJ starting at 3.00pm-ish outside Tesco's,
Arranged by Northenden's new Business Association.

Wed. 11th **Carols and Folk Concert. 7.30 – 9.15pm**
Kieron Hartley and Folk, in aid of the Booth Centre.

The School Cringle will be on Thursday 12th Dec at 2.00pm.

Thurs. 19th. c.9.15am School Christmas Service.

The next Women's Group will be in February,
and the next Bible Study on 22nd January.

On 15th January the Deanery Pastoral Committee is meeting.

NB too the next **Civic Soc.** meeting @ 7.30pm on Tue. 10th Dec.
at St. Wilfrid's church Hall.

Sunday Club ...

Sue Forster

As from and including 26th January 2014 Sunday Club will be held in the Church Hall, not in the Rectory. Initially I shall be in India for Sumi & Carlos' wedding celebrations, and on my return I have been asked to work on Sunday mornings, rather than afternoons, at the Vets. Kathryn Morgan and Joan Mycock (of Scramblers' fame) have bravely offered to take over from me, although they won't both be available every Sunday, and Sumi has offered to fill in too ~ but we should be glad to hear from anyone who would be willing to help out ~ preferably on a regular basis, once DBS clearance has been arranged.

Sunday Club is for 7 year olds upwards, and we don't mind how long they stay on for. It is an opportunity for some bible-based fun while the Sunday service (also fun!) takes place (roughly from 10.30 – 11.30am) apart from Family Service days.

I'm sad to have to give it up, and to lose my contact with the children, and I should like to give a big thank-you to Mona and Sandy for providing back-up and support during the years I've been doing the club. Their help has been valuable and very much appreciated. And a big thank-you too to the children for putting up with us!

And finally, a Magpie extra, as he congratulates Julia Neal, a grand -brownie, on yomping 56ml. across the Peak district at £110/mile.

Christmas Programme.

Warning of what is changed

Sun. **8th** Dec **Family Service with School Choir;** early Christmas

NB. Sun. 22nd Carol Service at 1.00pm ~ NB.
a joint service with the Nigerian Congregation.

Carols and Folk Music Concert on **Wednesday** 11th Dec. 7.30pm

School Christmas Service on Thurs 19th, ca. 9.15am

Tuesday 31st Nigerian Watch Night Service. 10.00pm - Midnight

