

20 ~ January ~ 10

Prayer for the Month ~ and the year.

**Sovereign Lord of time and eternity,
of this world and the next
as the years turn and time rolls ever on,
may we, your people and church,
be a beacon of hope in a hopeless world,
for you are the heart for this heartless world,
the medicine for all its peoples.
So may we bear witness
to the hope that you have set before us,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Saviour.**

Amen

A prayer used in Concord in 2007 ~
based on some thoughts of Karl Marx!

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Dear Friends,

Firstly; some "domestic" business. Thank you to everyone involved in distributing Concord over the last year, and to our advertisers for their support. And that leads on to saying that if you pay yearly the subscription for 2010 is now due ~ though many distributors may leave it until the evenings are longer and brighter before knocking on your door.

This month ... thoughts on the new year, naturally, from Magpie; thoughts on sheep, from Sue Forster; thoughts on Kobenhavn from her husband; thoughts, or rather reports, on carol singing, fees, and regular events; and the usual list of services and events for your diaries. So now read on.

Yours faithfully,

Greg Forster

**Northenden Farmers' Markets ~ New
Year...**

There is no market in January, but there is one on February 6th 2010 as usual, 10am to 4pm. Meat, cheese, fish,

vegetables, pies, sweets, coffee and cake ... roll up! Food that is good for you and good for the village.

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,

Northenden Methodist Church.

Palatine Road.

Minister: the Revd. David Bown,

5 Kenworthy Lane, Northenden, M 22 4 JF

0161 998 – 2158

Sunday Services.

Service.

Jan. 3rd 11.00am The Revd. Margaret Hall
6.30pm United Service at Northenden Methodist Ch.
The Revd. David Bown.

10th. 11.00am Holy Communion ~ The Revd. D. Bown

17th **Circuit Covenant Service** at St.Andrew's Church
The Revd. David Bown, and team.

24th 11.00am Mr. Harrison

31st 11.00am The Revd. David Sanders

Feb. 7th 11.00am Morning Service
6.30pm United Service at St.Wilfrid's Church.

Community Lunch ...

... Wednesday 13th Jan., from 12.00 – 1.30pm

Fun Bingo will be on either Sat. 23rd or Sat. 30th Jan, from Noon
till 2.00pm ~ listen out for the details.

Baa, ~ or words to that effect. *Sue Forster*

We tend to call sheep 'silly' and accuse them of following one another dumbly. But Jesus often used the analogy of a shepherd and his sheep, saying that they recognise the voice of their shepherd who knows each of them as individuals, and they follow him. Last summer I was in Greece on holiday, and saw a good illustration of this while I was there.

We hired a little car to explore the island and I was driving up a steep hill when some sheep started crossing the road as I was almost abreast of them. Being a good, courteous English driver (!) I stopped to let them across. Clearly they were going to the little tumbledown farmstead on the opposite side. As I stopped an old man appeared from one of the buildings and started yelling and waving his arms. I thought he was yelling at me, but no; suddenly I realised all the sheep were turning round and retreating to the opposite verge. Then, when I had driven off, they all began to cross again. Clearly they understood the shepherd's command of 'Go back, it's not safe to cross yet,' and heeded it. So who's a silly sheep then?

Northenden Players.

The Players' next production is
My Boy Jack, by David Haig,
Feb. 7th to 13th.

in the Hall at Northenden Methodist Church, Victoria Rd.
For details or booking, ring 445-6868

COPENHAGEN. DECEMBER 2009.

G.S.F.

I am writing while the Earth Summit is still going on, so cannot comment on its outcome, except to say that it seems to be working out better than expected but worse than was hoped ~ though there has just been a walk-out! It is a serious matter, and we should work and pray to limit the human element in climate change.

The lead up to the conference was clouded by the release of stolen e-mails from the Univ. of East Anglia suggesting that they had been selective with their figures. I cannot comment on UEA's conduct, except to say that they seem to have been incautious about the style in which they discussed the presentation of data which is available to many other institutions so that a blatant fudge would soon have shown up.

What I will ask, however, is the old detectives' question: *cui bono? Who will benefit?* and so lead on to ask who might have hacked into UEA's computers to extract *this* piece of information. There are many countries and companies who have an all too vested interest in business as usual with oil and gas ...

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 meeting 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 (in both cases) on Family Service Sundays.

Jan. 3rd 10.30am Family Communion
6.30pm United Service @ Northenden Methodist Church

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

Feb. 7th 10.30am Family Communion & Parade Service
6.30pm United Service at St. Wilfrid's

Drop in ... 2.00pm – Dusk.

*St. Wilfrid's church is open each Sunday
for prayer and peace, visiting and just looking round, enquiries
about baptisms, weddings, ancestor hunting, ... &c.*

It's All Happening ..., for your diaries ...

As usual there is no Women's group in January ~

next meeting on February 1st.

Wed. 13th Jan 8.00pm, Rectory ~ Bible Study



Wed.	20 th	8.00pm	Bible Study @ Rectory.
Thu.	21 st	7.30pm	P.C.C. in Church Hall
Mon.	25 th		School Governors' Meeting.
Wed.	27 th	8.00pm	Bible Study ~ Rectory
Sat.	30 th	10.am ...	Coffee Morning, Church Hall

CHAPTERS

@ *St. Wilfrid's Hall*

Restarting on Saturdays from Jan. 16th, from 10am till noon we are selling second hand books in the Church Hall for St. Wilfrid's church, so please tell your friends.

(Psst! ~ there's tea cakes too!)

Mon. 1st Feb., 7.45 for 8.00pm. Women's Group, Rectory.

And some other events ~ Tuesday 12th Jan @ 7.45pm in the Methodist Vestry: **Northenden Civic Society** open meeting.

~ Saturday 6th Feb. 10am – 4pm. **farmers'**

Market.

~ there is a regular social meeting ~ **Thursday Club** ~ on Thursday afternoons in the church hall organised by the British Legion Branch, tea, chat, bingo, &c., 2 –4pm

~ there is a regular **Youth Club** in the church hall on Tuesday evenings, run by Manchester Youth Service, from 7pm for a couple of hours, for 12-17 year olds. Video games, pool, table tennis, toast, chilling out and other activities.

~ there is a regular "**Lunch Club**", for over 60s, in the church hall, Mon. – Fri., 11.30am till 12.30pm; a meal, at cost, and companionship.

~ **Brownies**, in the church hall, Mondays from 6pm;

~ **Cubs, &c.** in the Church School, Tuesdays from 6.30pm

~ and for the under fours (and their grown-ups) there is

Tuesday Tots, in the church hall on Tuesdays (when else?) from about 9.15 till 11am or so.

[Please note that these are not "church" events ~ so you will need to liaise with the individual organisers about joining in.]

Church Fees, 2010

~ *Greg Forster*

There are as usual some increases from the new year in the nationally fixed fees for special services in church.

Funerals remain the same at £99, as does the reading of banns for a wedding elsewhere (£34), but the wedding here will itself cost £6 more at £355.50 overall, if you follow standard

procedures. Posters giving fuller details will be put up in church, or see [www . cofe . anglican . org / lifeevents / fees /](http://www.cofe.anglican.org/lifeevents/fees/)

FROM THE REGISTERS;

Baptised ... in the parish church on 13th Dec.

Holly Rose Wright

In Memoriam ...

Allan Willcox, Eileen Postles (Longley La.) 101

St.Valentine's Day ...

... falls this year on a Sunday ~ 14th Feb., of course. We shall be marking it as a special event, not because of St.Valentine himself, but because of its association with love and marriage. If you got married in St.Wilfrid's or are planning to marry here (or anywhere else for that matter) please make a point of joining us for the morning service that day, as we celebrate love and marriage, thank God for its gifts, and remind ourselves of its commitments. And even if you didn't, tell those who did (or perhaps should!), and invite them along with you specially!

I think we shall be hearing more about marriage in Manchester in the coming months, so watch and listen out.

Folk Carols, &c.

The concert of folk music and carols early in December given by Keiron Hartley and Friends was one of our most successful yet. It was well attended, and raised £150 for the work of the Booth Centre.

We anticipate that a **CD** of the songs from the concert will be available in the near future (if not already) at a price of, we think, £5.00; with profits also going towards the Booth Centre's work.

**BOAT LANE
COURT**

VERY SHELTERED HOUSING

**BOAT LANE COURT,
BRETT ST., NORTHENDEN
RETIREMENT FLATS**

***ALL ENQUIRIES TO:*
THE MANAGER, BOAT LANE COURT, NORTHENDEN, M 22 4 EZ**

Magpie ...

... is wondering how to say **good-bye to the decade** (though a mathematician, of course, will tell you that the decade does not end until 31st Dec. 2010). The papers have suddenly begun calling it the Noughties, an idea mooted 10 years ago ~ with the overtone of the Naughtyies, I suppose. Do you think it was any more naughty than previous decades?

... What do you reckon is naughty about a decade, anyway ~ or anything else for that matter? Debauchery? Banking? Wars? Inflation? Market forces? Socialism? Deflation? Religious extremism? Aggressive atheism? Carbon emissions? Binge drinking? Poverty? Greed? "Reality" TV? Political corruption? Apathy? Individualism? Bureaucratisation? Tecnophobia? ** Treating life as disposable? PC? Or what?

... but what will we call the next decade, whenever it begins? The Tennies? Will that become the Tinnies, or even the Tinies? Mr. Gates (my in-house spell-checker) is suggesting the *Tennis*, but I think he has missed the point. If you're French you could call them the Dixies, which sounds nice, but a Dixie is a large cooking pot. The melting pot decade? There's a thought!

... the bells, or rather one bell, rang out from the Tower of St. Wilfrid's on Sunday 13th Dec., as a gesture of solidarity with those campaigning for effective limitations on Carbon emissions, and the like, as the outcome of the **Copenhagen summit**. This was, apparently, being done across the world, but how the BBC news knew about it when no information had come out to the churches ~ or to this church in particular, at least ~ is anyone's guess. With proper notice we might have had a proper peal. As it was, it sounded all too like a funereal knell.

... and a slightly mischievous aside to that story ... how much extra CO₂ or CH₄ was emitted, Magpie wonders, as a result of the worldwide efforts of thousands of campanologists? (Or should that be campaignologists?)

** ... by the way, **tecnophobia**, without an aitch, means fear of children, not fear of technology. (but you won't find it in an English dictionary) It has been a funny decade, in which the Authorities have driven themselves into a paranoid frenzy over child protection (or is it self-protection?) but in which children are

unhappier than ever, and in their teenage years can be treated as a hostile, alien species by those same Authorities.

... Northenden had its fifteen seconds of fame early in December, when Cllr. Tony Burns explained to the BBC (I can't remember whether it was the Today Programme or an even earlier slot, on **Parish Councils**) why our City Council did not think it appropriate to add another layer of bureaucracy to our lives. No-one got to say why it might be a good idea. The same programme featured parts of Greater London, where recent legislation introduced by the present Labour Government has permitted the introduction of Parish councils in an area where they were previously barred, and where campaigns for them are getting under weigh. From that early hour I can't recall whether there were 4,000+ such councils in existence, or 4,000+ had been added since 1974. They are quite popular and effective, anyway.

... meanwhile, back at the ranch (or Northenden ward, anyway) the City Council are holding a consultation on how better to work with the electorate for the good governance of the ward. We should be flattered. We are a "pilot" which might be rolled out across the City if it works. How can the process of Ward Consultation be improved? How can existing arrangements be better publicised? Who else can be brought into the system? The Rector has questionnaires from our ward coordinator, and will gladly pass them on and explain the questions and possibilities.

Money Matters.

Greg Forster.

St.

Wilfrid's

Again, just a note which applies to St. Wilfrid's but I don't mind other people listening in. I spoke last month of being pleased with our finances. That is still the case. We seem to be receiving more than last year, though we are still not likely to break even. That's what it looks like in mid- December, anyway. So thank you!

The year's deficit is likely to be over £3,000, when once it looked as if it might be £8,000. That means we are spending about £70 – £75 per week more than the church is getting in. As I said last month, we can only do that for so long, and will now have to rely more on current giving since interest from our investments has gone down.

e-Concord?

It occurred to me during the postal disputes last year that some of you might like to receive the magazine electronic-

ally. If you want a copy emailed, let me know (the e-mail address is near the top of page 1.) Or if you want to look up St.Wilfrid's website (details by the St.Wilfrid's logo on page 4) you should find the magazine there too.