

CONCORD ~ *January* 2014

Prayer for the Month

Lord, help me to recognise the things that I can change, and change them for the better;

to recognise the things that I cannot change, and to live and work with them positively;

and give me the wisdom to know the difference, and the patience not to grumble or resent the challenge.

For your glory's sake.

Amen.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane. 0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

For many years the cover price of Concord has been 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 this month 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!) There are a few changes in the layout, with articles and local news earlier in the issue, and diary items and records later ~ for reference rather than as headlines.

Having said that, can I also thank the people who distribute the magazine, and also commend as well as thanking our advertisers.

2014 is of course the centenary year of the beginning of the Great War. During the year there will no doubt be many events to commemorate that, nationally and locally. I trust they will not be as jingoistic as events at the start of the war itself. It jars now that some parish magazines at the time contained rather triumphalist syndicated articles on the achievements of our forces and armaments industry. The phrase "the war to end all wars" comes to mind too, as something tragically ironic. If only! For how Concord will mark this anniversary, see the piece below.

Change often goes with decay in church thinking, or at least church singing ~ which is a shame. A new year is a time to think about change, and to affirm, at least in theory, that it offers new opportunities and challenges, which could be a good thing,

even if the practice starts off a little uncomfortably. There is a very sound theological principle that God is unchanging, though it owes more to ancient Greek thinking than to the Bible. It is an affirmation that he is to be relied upon and trusted; he keeps his head, even when all around are losing theirs! But at the same time, perhaps we can have another vision of God. Not just The Being, The One Who Is, but The One Who Is There as we turn the corners of the world, flip from one year to the next, finding things new and maybe strange. He is The One Who Makes Things Be, not just as creator and sustainer of the physical world, but as the one who travels along with us, inspiring and correcting. The Hebrew name for God, which was probably pronounced Yahweh ~ though we often see it as Jehovah ~ means something like that. He is the one who in all the twists and turns of the world and our journey through it will be there, if we ask and trust him, wanting us to get things right, but reshaping his plans for us when we get it wrong.

Last year I talked about a possibility that St. Wilfrid's Church and parish might be twinned with St. Michael's in Northen Moor. As things have developed the opportunity has arisen for St. Michael's to work more closely with St. Martin's in Baguley instead, and for a new minister to work in both those churches. I pass no comment on this, except to point out that it does not mean that St. Wilfrid's will carry on in unchanged independence for the foreseeable future. Change will come, and we should work towards it. In particular can I invite more members of the congregation to take a lead in readings, prayers and sharing the communion cup in our services. Have a word with me if you can.

Greg Forster

“We will remember them” 1914-1919

One can look at a war, and grow angry at what governments and leaders did. I am sure this year's centenary will provoke books and articles along those lines. I will not try to ape them. One can also look at individual human stories, sad, heroic, poignant. Over the year in Concord that is what I propose to do.

In Northenden churchyard there are some 30 “war graves”, half of them from the Great War. Some are in the regulation War Graves Commission style, some are actual burials here under family headstones, or simply inscriptions recording a son or

husband “buried in France.” There are other graves too of those who served and survived, whom I met in their old age. So each month during 2014 in Concord I will tell the personal stories of some of them, as they told me themselves or as relatives have shared with me, perhaps as they visited a grave, or derived from records available on the Internet or in our own old magazines.

1. Archibald Herbert. 1898 - 1995

We tend to think of soldiers of the Great War trudging through mud, and cowering in trenches, grumbling about the rain and suffering from trench foot. For Archie Herbert, whose ashes lie in the Tower Plot at St. Wilfrid’s, things were rather different.

When I met him he was living in Lee Court, and in his mid-nineties I would take communion to him, and occasionally, when his son came up from Gloucester, he might actually get to an early morning service at church. He did not speak much or often about the Great War ~ I think among his comrades there was a kind of code of silence. They all knew the bravery demanded; they all knew the horrors of various kinds as frail human flesh met machine guns; in the shared silence came support, and through the silence the people back home were also spared the worst horrors. But he did once talk about his experience.

He was a cavalryman. After the first few glory days in August 1914 most of the cavalry abandoned their horses ~ but some did not. Some units were posted further afield. We had an army in Egypt, facing the Turks, who joined the Central Powers in November 1914. The dashing and romantic campaign of Lawrence of Arabia is quite well known, if only from the film. In the broader picture that was only a side-show, however effective and important. Back in Egypt General Murray gathered his forces and slogged up the coast, through Sinai and into Palestine. Archie Herbert was with the mostly ANZAC cavalry force which rode with him, guarding his Eastern flanks in the desert. His comments were about thirst, not rain!

Allenby replaced Murray. The Turks made a stand at Beer Sheba, barring the way to Gaza and Jerusalem, and as the battle developed the cavalry swung out on the flank and galloped across the open ground to take positions and wrap up the Turkish left flank, entering the town itself that evening. So forget what you’ve read about Winston Churchill being in the last cavalry

charge at Omdurman, or any other claim. Archie Herbert was one of the troops who took part in the last cavalry charge of the British Army, at Beer Sheba on October 31st 1917.

There is a sequel, which is worth repeating. When Allenby came to Jerusalem following that battle, the city was, I gather, open to him. In those days the general staff rode horses, not jeeps or APCs. As he reached the Mount of Olives Allenby dismounted and walked his horse into the city. "Where my Lord rode a donkey," he explained, "I'm not going to ride a war-horse."

G.S.Forster.

I hope to include a similar piece each month this year. If you have memories I might include of what parents or grandparents buried here have said about the Great War, please contact me.

Tuesday Tots ~ a mother & toddler group meeting during term time 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.

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

Long time ago, ~ in *Bethlehem* ...

The Innkeeper's complainte.

"They say there's no such thing as bad publicity, but I've had it. Plenty of it, and they didn't even stay here. Oh, I knew about them, and saw them, and could have put them up if they'd asked, but they didn't, and I still get the blame.

"We were busy, of course. When the high-ups order a census, everyone has to jump. It wasn't that they wanted to count heads ~ they wanted to count money, and land, and tax-take. Lots of people reckon they have family lands here, 'cos of old David. Claim the land; claim the ancestry, see. So they all came back ~ but they stayed with the family, mostly. Not with me.

"And I knew him, of course. Seph, I mean. He did grow up round here, but there isn't much building work going on round here, not now. So they followed the work, his dad, and him. Up north, I gather, where there's a new capital being built or something, and new villages ~ but for the census, back he came.

"Mind you, I do reckon it was a bit fool-hardy. Would you travel with a pregnant wife? And her I don't know how many months gone? The wife says she must have been near full term ~ I'll take her word for it. She reckons the travel brought the labour on ... she would know, I suppose. Mind you, I don't think it was quite straight away. It was a few nights after I'd seen them pass that the shepherds turned up. Ranting and raving they were. I shouldn't say that, really, 'cos it was hymns they were singing, every hymn in the book, I reckon, and a few that aren't. '*Glory to God in high heaven, and goodwill to people on earth, ...*' That was it. Pretty tune too, almost angelic. I don't know what they make out in the hills, other than cheese, but it must have been powerful stuff that night!

"The bad publicity? Oh, yes. It's the upper rooms we've got, I reckon. Bethlehem is on a slope, you see, and we put the guests in the rooms at the top ~ the upper rooms. Cool in summer, catching the wind, and away from the bustle and smells down below. They even call us *The Upper Room Inn*. You could call it our key selling point on this route. But most of the houses here have got them too. When the family have got guests, that's where they put them. If there's a few guests, then it would get crowded, and that's what happened I reckon. Mind you, would you have a baby in that

crowd, most of them strangers, even if they are family? The wife says not. So she has the baby downstairs ~ they're almost caves in some houses ~ in the stables where she could get some privacy, and some peace and quiet ~ and it gets around, 'no room in the upper room', and the rest is history.

"Yes, I'd have put them up if they'd asked ~ but the word's got out that I wouldn't, and it's hard to live that down. Mind you, we did get some extra trade out of it. No, not the shepherds. They didn't spend a farthing that night. No, ... it was a few months later. It was a right to-do, with camels and servants and all. They were foreign priests of some sort, from way out east somewhere. Magi they called themselves.

"They arrived late, down from Jerusalem, laughing and joking and all agog about some star they'd seen over the town, and while the servants were setting up the bosses went off and found Seph and his family. They were settled here for a few days, so far as I could see, but the next morning it was all bustle again. Up and off like there was no tomorrow, they were. They paid well and said to be quiet about the visit ~ as if anyone could! Didn't go back on the Jerusalem road, but straight off out east ~ there's the old High Road that way, I suppose. I heard one of the servants talking about bad dreams or something.

"Come to think of it, I didn't see old Seph after that either. They must've gone too, though not together. Shame. I'd've liked a chat, for old time's sake. Never got round to it. You know how busy it is, at an inn. I wonder what happened to them.

"Mind you, they were well out of it. It was the next week the soldiers came. Herod's thugs (but don't let on that I said that, will you.) Looking for young kids, they were. 'King's orders,' they said. Quizzed me, they did. I told them, of course, about the foreigners. They can be quite persuasive, you know, but by that time what did it matter? They'd been long gone, and I fudged the direction (but don't let on, will you.) 'But didn't you see them back at the palace?' I said. Told no lies, though. So we had a few killed, poor little mites. Yes, Seph was well out of it."

This scene and the two printed in November and December, together with some other items, are available as a separate booklet ~

Long time ago in Nazareth ~ in church @ £1.50p.

Magpie ...

... is always interested in the weather, since we get quite a lot of it ~ in 2013 most of it seemed warm, if rather lively at times. There was a prolific crop of berries and nuts, and also the leaves stayed on the trees, many of them still green, well into December.

... has been flitting around the Church Hall lately, and has noticed some very welcome changes. Not only is it warmer, with the new glazing and insulation that was put in last year, but it is brighter thanks to new painting inside and out. Many thanks to the various painters! The biggest change is in the ladies' toilets, which have a new floor, and very distinctive cubicle doors and seat covers. Modern disability legislation insists that such doors and seats are in a colour contrasting with the surrounds ~ in case you are blind and can't find the way out. This complies with a vengeance! Magpie is tempted to say go and have a look ~ but half the population are ruled out of this privilege. Perhaps a discrete peep round the door, then. Again, many thanks to those who have done the work and those who have provided the materials.

... also flitted past the Christmas Tree by Tesco's on the first Saturday in December, to be greeted by Northenden Pipe Band in full voice, and then Sale Male Voice Choir. Splendid, but more was to come; the Lord Mayor of Manchester presided over the count-down to switching on the lights, proving that the residents of Northenden can count from one to ten backwards. The event was organised by the newly formed Northenden Traders' Association, led by Tyler Lappage of Nabarro-Poole Accountants in the village. Thanks too for support from the Civic Society, from the local Regeneration Team of the Council, and from their Markets' Department. (To whom also thanks for their efforts in connection with the Farmers' and Others' Street Market.)

... the good news is that he was caught, and convicted. This is one of our most prolific graffiti artists ~ if "artist" is the right word. His work seems largely to consist of his tag, or signature, in barely legible form. Any rate, the Magistrates seem to have accepted his claim (been conned?) that he is an artist of the stature of Banksey, and merely fined him £1,000 and gave him some hours of community service. Magpie was told that more

graffiti than ever have been seen since his conviction ~ but is it true, and was it actually him?

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 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.

- Jan. 5th** 11.00am The Rev. Tim Nicholls
6.30pm United Service, The Rev. Tim Nicholls.
- 12th 11.00am Mr. David James
- 19th 11.00am Mr. Tony Fawthrop
- 26th 11.00am Mr. Praveen Jayaprakasam
- Feb. 2nd** 9.00am Messy Church
11.00am Holy Communion, The Rev. Tim Nicholls
6.30pm United Service at St.Wilfrid's
- 9th 11.00am Mrs. Olivia Tu'ihalamaka.

Community Lunches

Wed. Jan. 8th. ~ 12 noon till 1.30pm
(Details to be confirmed)

Rose Hill Memories.

Some readers may recall visits by Geoff Scargill, a retired head teacher, to Northenden Civic Society and to the Townswomen's Guild, to talk about Sir Edward Watkin, of Rose Hill. Geoff is researching the history of Rose Hill, and Northenden more generally, and would be especially interested to meet up

with anyone who worked there or had family who worked there in order to tap into their memories. Contact him via the Rector.

NORTHENDEN

Neighbourhood Forum

Work continues on this. We have been promised funding, and the advice of "Locality", the Government agency set up to support such groups. The council formally agreed to establish the Forum, but with a reduced area, excluding the Industrial Estate at Sharston. 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 was just a bit too many layers of democracy for the heirs of Peterloo, as the leader of the council himself is reported to have said.

It is early yet to map out future developments in detail, but there will be area-wide publicity during January, and a public meeting to explain more what we can do. A website is being set up, with other social media connections. The election of a longer term committee should follow in March or April, and discussion of ideas and plans for the village will begin as soon as possible. We have already asked to be kept informed (as by law we must be) of planning proposals in the Area.

Magpie ... has (in this connection) found a thought from Tony Benn, who is always worth listening to, even when you disagree with him. In 2005 the last of his "5 questions to ask" was, *How can we get rid of you?*

The reply he supplied was, *ONLY democracy gives us that right and that's why no-one with power likes democracy!*

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 ~ but see below.

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.

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

12th 10.30am Holy Communion
 6.30pm Evening Worship.

19th 10.30am Holy Communion *Deborah !*
 6.30pm Evening Worship

26th 10.30am Morning Prayer
 6.30pm Holy Communion

2nd Feb. 10.30am Family Communion and Parade Service
 6.30pm United Service at St.Wilfrid’s

9th 10.30am Holy Communion
 6.30pm Evening Worship.

And we shall probably celebrate St.Valentine’s Sunday on 16th.

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!



The next Women’s Group will be in February,
and the next **Bible Study** on 22nd Jan., 8pm in the Rectory.

On 15th January the Deanery Pastoral Committee is meeting.
Church Council (**PCC**) meets on Thurs. 16th Jan. 7.30pm, Hall.

Coffee Morning, Sat. 25th in the Hall, 10.00 – 11.30am

Bible Study, 29th Jan., 5th, 12th Feb. Rectory, 8.00pm

Women's Group. Mon. 3rd Feb. 7.45 for 8pm; Rectory

Farmers' & Street Market, Sat. 1st Feb. 10am

NB too the next **Civic Soc.** meeting on **Tue. 14th Jan.**, then 11th Feb.
@ 7.30pm at St. Wilfrid's church Hall.

Sunday Club ...

From 26th January 2014 Sunday Club will be held in the Church Hall alongside Scramblers, not in the Rectory. Kathryn Morgan and Joan Mycock (of Scramblers' fame) will take over. They won't both be available every Sunday, and Sumi Sundar has offered to cover too ~ but we should be glad to hear from anyone else 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. It's a chance for some bible-based fun while the Church service (also fun!) is on (roughly 10.30 – 11.30am) except Family Service days.

Registers ...

Baptisms ~ on Sunday 8th December;

Elsie Akude Udeze

... and on Sunday 15th December

Amelia Kate Johnson, Jack James Johnson,
Stephen Jacob Johnson.

In Memoriam;

Audrey Blake (late of Palatine Rd.), Olive Fitzgerald (Bucklow Dr.)
Paula Price (Royle Green Rd.), Geoffrey Lloyd (Palatine Rd.).

Rebuilding Lives? ~ Homes of Hope. *Ceri Jones*

People with a history of homelessness or rough-sleeping are seeing their lives changed thanks to a vision to provide a home. King's Church, based near the University, have, for almost a decade, served those who are sleeping rough or in temporary

accommodation, through practical help and hosting meals. These VIP nights happened 6 times a year for men and women. The church also works alongside other projects like Mustard Tree or Barnabus supporting these vulnerable people.

The vision behind the VIP nights was to demonstrate God's love to people without a home and help them understand they are very important people; to build relationship with them, and through this communicate the gospel message. But there was a bigger vision; to support them long term and help them back into mainstream society, and so a growing need for a permanent home for a small group was identified.

After a long search, a three-bedroom house in Northenden was identified. "We completed the purchase of the house in April this year," said Gary Stretton, who heads this "Homes of Hope" project, "and we welcomed our first residents in May."

Homes of Hope gives residents - men over 25 - a home for up to two years to help them construct a brighter future and transform their lives before moving to more independence. But it is about more than a roof over their heads. During the time they call the house 'home', they are helped with basic skills such as budgeting, cooking and how to look after a home. They also take part in a structured programme, which helps them look at their past and why they got into the life choices they did; but more importantly how to recover from them.

Bible reading and prayer are a large part of what goes on at the house, but being a Christian is not a requirement for those chosen as residents. No residents will ever be required to join in the faith activity, but Gary hopes they will see the love of God through the church members who take part and those residents who are Christian. He hopes it will plant a seed.

One resident said: "I lived on my own but got offered a place in the house and it gave me hope. The support we get is out of this world." And just six months since the doors opened, the first person has left again to set up his own home.