

CONCORD ~ January 2015

Prayer for the Month,

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year,
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'
And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness,
and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be better than light, and safer than a known way.'"

From a poem quoted by George VI in his Christmas Broadcast, 1939
apparently at the suggestion of his daughter the then Princess Elizabeth.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.

0161 **998 2615**

Dear Friends,

So what of the new year? Have a happy one, anyway, but what can we say about it? It will hold an election, about which no comment, other than that it should be interesting! That is something to put into the hands of God.

It will also hold a Climate Change conference, or perhaps a series of them, leading up to a finale in Paris. While people may argue (a little) about the speed of the changes, it does seem conclusive that the amount of carbon-based gases which the human race is putting into Earth's atmosphere is making a difference to the climate. It is not just about warming (though that is part of the picture) but about the energy in the system, and the more energy the stronger the winds, the deeper the depressions, the wilder the storms, and so on. More crucially, we cannot run this as an experiment, and see what turns out, and then make a response if we have to in twenty years time. By then it will be too late. So we should all be concerned, and we should all pray about and perhaps lobby parliamentary candidates about this most important secular issue of our time. It will call for restraint in our use of some sorts of power, and a willingness to share resources. It could also involve increased use of other sources of power, and a conscious planning policy to use, say, solar energy in all new housing, ... and so on.

And, for the first time in a year, we (almost) won't mention the war! But now read on.

Greg Forster

Magpie

... sometimes gets paid in odd currencies ~ dimes, euros, Turkish liras, Canadian quarters and Irish pence, and even with a St.Kilda five pound note. And it *is* genuine ~ but not for spending on St.Kilda, of course, since the last residents left in the 1930s. It's valid in the UK. It is actually a Scots fiver, with a picture of St.Kilda's last residents as the design, issued by the Clydesdale Bank. Now that's what he calls money with attitude.

... is just going to put on record that lights have been seen in the upper storeys of the Green Dalek on Church Rd. during working hours, and yellow jackets have again appeared on the Camperlands site. By January 2016, ... who knows?

... overheard at Stonehenge, in the days when the public could get right up to the stones: *Mother to sub-teenage son; "Now you mind you don't knock anything over."*

... and fame at last: Northenden has a building in the national exhibition of iconic buildings of the century from 1914 – 2014, at the Royal Academy of Arts ("100 buildings 100 years" ~ on till Feb. 1st) Guess where! The odds are that most of us have rarely if ever seen it. A clue? The year is 1942. Still in the dark? Magpie flew into the Sharston Industrial Estate, to look at the Northenden Bus Garage, which is the quintessence of Art Deco. It is a building with history and attitude too. Before housing buses it housed Lancaster bomber's wings, which were reputedly made there. And didn't he hear somewhere that it is the largest unsupported reinforced concrete span anywhere? But we must be careful. With such an accolade, someone is sure to come along and want to demolish it.

Read Mark ...

G. S. F.

In the Church of England scheme of readings this year we are focusing on St.Mark's Gospel, so I will try briefly to introduce it. It is the shortest of the Gospels, and it would be quite possible to read it through in one sitting, as was probably the intention when it was written. (We spoil the Gospels by reading them in pint sized measures in church services: they present a flowing and dramatic story of the ministry of Jesus.)

Mark's gospel is urgent. One of its hallmarks is the word 'immediately'. This may reflect the likelihood that Mark is

reporting Peter's preaching and recollections of Jesus' work. The earliest introductions to the book from the second century of the church suggest that Mark acted as Peter's interpreter or spokesman. (And for a good summary of the Gospel, look at Peter's sermon to the Roman centurion Cornelius in Acts. ch. 10 vv 37-43.) If so, it has a claim to almost eye-witness status, given that this was not disinterested court reporting, but a passionate invitation to latch on to all that Jesus had done for Peter, and Mark, and their hearers or readers ~ and for us.

Mark's Gospel is almost certainly the first of the Gospels to be written ~ though I suspect that there were written records of Jesus' *teaching* going the rounds before. In fact, it may be that the opening lines of the Gospel are a mild rebuke to those who think the good news (that is what Gospel means) begins with Jesus' moral teaching. Mark knows about that teaching but the Gospel begins and ends with what Jesus has done for us, breaking us out of the power of evil, and bringing forgiveness of sins. He gave his life as a ransom for many, Mark reports (10 v45.) So the good news begins with Jesus' actions, and has historical roots too (no floating fantasy, it dates from the activity of another, then well known, historical figure, John the baptiser, as Mark says in his first chapter.) History is important. Other religions have historical settings and their founders can be dated. The distinctiveness about Jesus is not just that he was a historical figure, but that it was his actions within historical space and time, not just his words, which form the basis of the new relationship between people and God which he introduced.

And part of the message is that Jesus called a group together as the basis of a new community. Peter in that sermon is quite specific that he and the other disciples were chosen specially as witnesses to what God was doing. They were not just bystanders who tagged along, but part of the action and planning of God. That is echoed in the Gospel.

So why did Mark write? To put on record Peter's unique eye-witness of Jesus' work for us, probably after Peter had moved on from a particular place of his own ministry, so that the Christians converted there should have the record for their own use, and to pass on in turn. When did he write? Most scholars now would say in the 60s AD, but there are hints that it could have been the mid 40s ~ and I would go along with that.

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 activities with your child(ren) followed by a story, songs, and prayer based on the activities
For details contact Amy Carline, 07816 888 704

Jan. 4th 11.00am The Rev. Tim Nicholls ~ Covenant service
6.30pm District Service at Knutsford.

11th 11.00am Mrs. Joyce Curtis

18th 11.00am Mr. Tony Fawthrop

25th 11.00am Mr. Malcolm Gunn

Feb. 1st 9.30am MESSY CHURCH
11.00am The Rev. T. Nicholls, Holy Communion.
6.30pm United Service **at St. Wilfrid's**

8th 11.00am Mr. Bob Bartindale.

Community Lunches

Wed. 14th Jan 12.00 noon – 1.30pm
Next lunch; Febr. 11th. (To be confirmed)

Northenden Theatre Club have performances on
Febr. 1st – 7th. in the Methodist Church Hall, Victoria Rd.

Church Road Chippy

78 Church Rd., Northenden

Fish, chips, peas, sausages, pies, ...

Best quality food tel. 0161 998-4630

*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

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Website: www . stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk

And follow us on Facebook (as they say) ~

www.facebook.com/ pages/ St-Wilfrids-Northenden/ 208920952481082

Services:

On Sundays there will be a communion service at 8.00am.

On Thursdays also, at 10am, there is a communion service.

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.

There are also activities for children.

... and if you get Concord in time, ...

Note the Watch-Night Service on Dec. 31st, 9.00pm ...

Sunday Scramblers ~ for 3½ to age 9 upwards ~ meet, for the moment, in the Church Hall unless there is a Family Service, between 10.30 and 11.30am on Sundays

Jan. 4th 2015. 10.30am Family Communion (& Carols)

6.30pm Evening Worship

11th 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

18th 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

25th 10.30am Morning Prayer

6.30pm Holy Communion.

Feb. 1st 10.30am Family Communion & Parade

6.30pm United Evening Worship at St. Wilfrid's

8th 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship.

St.Valentine's Sunday ~ Feb 15th, 10.30am book the date.

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! 

On Dec. 31st, New Year's Eve, note the **Watch Night** service
arranged by the Nigerian Congregation, 9.00pm to 2015.

P.C.C meeting ~ Thurs. 15th January, 7.30pm. Church Hall

Women's Group ~

Next meeting on February 2nd, 7.45pm: Mercy Ships

Registers ...



In Memoriam.

Barbara Shaw (Queenhill Rd., 79), , John Copeland (Eccles, 79),
Agnes Davies (ex Roundwood Rd., 92), Doreen Edwards (ex Piper
Hill Ave., 92), Bill Wardle (Houghton Dr., 87)

Agnes Davies.

With the death, at the age of 92, of Agnes Davies this church has lost a great friend and worker. She came here from Glasgow as a new wife over sixty years ago, and became involved with husband Leslie in St.Wilfrid's. Previously she was secretary to a distiller's firm, and as well as bringing up two sons she soon became church secretary. She graduated to treasurer, a post she held with great efficiency for many years (and woe betide anyone who could not add two and two). Finally she was Churchwarden, until the increasing strains of age forced her retirement. She was proudly Scots, despite spending most of her life south of the border. In her younger days she and Les had enjoyed walking, and she kept that up around Northenden as long as she could, until arthritis confined her to a wheel-chair for outdoor trips a few years ago. We thank God for her life and all that she has done here, and express our condolences to her sons and wider family.

Many Thanks ...

... for the gifts of food and warm gear received this year for Manchester's homeless. It has been passed on, and welcomed.
Church Fees, 2015. GSF

The New Year is the time for the revision of the fees and other charges made by the church for weddings, funerals and other events which do not happen on a regular basis. These are fixed at a national level rather than by St. Wilfrid's independently. The new chart of fees shows roughly a five percent increase on 2014 ~ though there are some decreases for particular items! I can explain the details individually to anyone who wants to know, and will post the chart of them in church.

Sunday Scramblers ~

are any members of St. Wilfrid's Congregation able and willing to take on a leadership role for this group? Talk to the Rector if you can.

Churchyard ... if you brought wreaths into the churchyard for relatives at Christmas we should be grateful if they were removed before they deteriorate. They are normally removed at the end of the Christmas season ~ 2nd Febr.

The Rector's booklet, *We Will Remember Them*, is available from the Church. It prints articles from Concord about WW1 casualties recognised in the churchyard, with more information and colour photographs.

It now includes the full list of our 1914-19 war graves, and new sections based on the most recent editions of Concord

Price (further revised edition) £2.25

Appleacre Land Care ~ John, the father of

Esme and Tilly whose baptism was noted last month, is offering a free garden care service (donations welcome).

Ring 07519-19-9323 and he will get back to you.

**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

Well, Hello again, God,

Yes, me again!

What do you think about the New Year?

I'm rather looking forward to it;

I think I might be allowed to stay up late to see it in.

That could be fun,

and there'll be a bit of a party

except it'll be all grown up things and not games ~

the crisps are good though.

Still, I saw a box of fireworks on the top shelf,

and that's well good.

Did they have fireworks when you were little?

Is that why they talk about the Big Bang?

That must have been some show!

But why is it New Year in January?

At school the head starts the new year in September,

and dad says he has to use up all his holidays before the new

year, and that's in April.

Which is it? I get confused?

And someone said Happy New Year to us in church in November!

I suppose that must be right, for you anyway, 'cos it's church.

(You do go to church, don't you?)

But what about these resolutions and things?

Do they help?

Last year mine didn't ~ sorry ~ but I did try.

It was about doing the washing up,

but my big brother muscled in and said that that was his

resolution too,

so we had a row about it and mum stepped in and told us we

should vacuum out our bedroom and put things tidy instead.

Oh, well. *Must try harder this year.*

And grown ups seem to get specially worried every new year
about what's going to happen. At least, they talk about it.

Could you stop them worrying by not having new years?

Or should we be worried all the time,

or just say Over to You more often instead?

Honest.