

# CONCORD ~ July 2015

Prayer for the Month,

O, all you works of the Lord, bless the Lord,  
praise him and magnify him for ever;  
sun and moon, stars and sky (black holes and dark matter),  
warmth and cold, wind and rain, cloud and sunshine,

bless the Lord, praise and magnify him to eternity;

O all created things, birds and beasts, plants and fruit,  
wild places and gardens, travellers and gardeners,  
farmland and cities, homes, studios and workshops,  
planners and engineers, scientists and technicians,

bless the Lord, praise and magnify him for all time;

and all you servants of God, who love and trust him,  
who pray and worship him and seek to serve him,

bless the Lord, praise and magnify him for ever;

*Amen.*

A canticle for summer, based on the "Benedicite",  
from a supplementary part of the book of Daniel.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.

0161 **998 2615**

Dear Friends,

Northenden is a good place to live (though we would like it to be better). We all probably knew that ~ but it is sort of official now that the survey which the Neighbourhood Forum commissioned has been published. But I hope that we can all talk up our village. Without denying its failings I would always want to talk about what is worthwhile here, rather than grumble about its problems. OK, we may get some anti-social behaviour, but it is mild compared to other areas, and a heck of a lot of pro-social behaviour goes on too. Gossip about that. Or if you see something to complain about, what can you do to remedy it? Are there some tin cans on your street? They would probably go into your wheelie-bin and look better there than on your Facebook page. Yes, ring 954-9000 for the council to do something if it is really too big for you, but rubbish attracts more rubbish so the sooner it is dealt with, the better.

End of grouse! Now read on!

**Greg Forster**

# Church Road Chippy

78 Church Rd.,  
Northenden

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

**Best quality food      tel. 0161 998-4630**

*Magpie ...*

... sometimes thinks about what words mean. The lager can, for instance, which proclaims that its contents is "best served chilled." Does that actually mean that it tastes so awful that you had better numb your taste buds ~ and that iced water might do you just as much good?

Or the lorry or bus with a notice on the rear inside corner warning cyclists not to overtake inside. It is a good idea for cyclists to be careful ~ don't get me wrong ~ but does this really mean that the driver does not look in his left hand rear view mirrors? (The Rector tells Magpie that he wants a tee-shirt with the slogan, "Pedestrians, Motorists, keep out of my Cycle Lane.")

Or the supermarket till receipt which informs you that you have saved £1.99 by your visit today. That is not true: you have *spent* £39.99 on your visit today, and have benefitted from £1.99 worth of discounts (or possibly you have bought two for the price of one, but will honestly never eat the second, and so will throw it, or better give it, away.)

... It was the first sunny day of summer (yes, they do happen) and he was lounging there, his head lying on his arms. Wonderful! Bliss! Yes, lying there on top of the wall, languidly looking around him in the sunlight and the warmth, soaking in the sun. What more could a squirrel want?

... noticed that the Church Inn (or whatever it will be called when the development is finished) now has a front door, and not just a sheet of rough blockboard. Things are looking up.

... heard a story ~ perhaps you did too; if so sorry for the repetition ~ of the policeman in the House of Lords who saw a clergyman walking around the place and asked, "Are you here for the Archbishop of Canterbury, sir?" Justin Welby smiled at him (I'm sure) and replied, "I *am* the Archbishop of Canterbury."

... was deeply saddened to see the best display of flowers in 30 years on the small patch of Church Hall land opposite the Crown Inn mown into oblivion in mid June. Vandals! Admittedly they were not garden flowers, but that does not mean that they were weeds ~ they were in their right and proper place, and were beautiful, which is what flowers are supposed to be. The saddest thing is that someone probably thought he was being helpful, and so blinded himself to the beauty.

... it seems that the Rector sometimes jokes with couples getting married in the church that, in strict law, all they need to do is make the right promises *somewhere* in the building, even up the tower. No-one has taken him up on that; the chancel step, wearing a white dress (the bride that is, not the groom) is what everyone expects. No-one, until now, that is; but when Charlotte and Simon Ward got married at the end of May someone asked about the tower while the registers were being signed. He'd never seen up there; was it accessible? Of course, said the Rector, and the upshot of it all was that the wedding party proceeded to climb the tower, white dress and all, and the wedding photographs were taken up there ~ unique!

Northenden Neighbourhood Forum.

*G S F.*

Readers will know that I have been involved with the Neighbourhood forum since it was first mooted about three years ago. It is now (at last) at the stage where its main business is being considered ~ namely the preparation of a "Plan" for our Area. This will shape planning decisions in the village for the next ten years or so. If you live in Northenden you will have had the chance to contribute your ideas and hopes through the questionnaire which we circulated in March. The results of that have now been pulled together and turned into a vision for the Area which will form the basis of the Plan.

Copies of the Survey results are available and show people generally happy with Northenden, but worried about the appearance of Palatine Rd. with the rowdy bars there, and especially the parking difficulties we have around the village. Concern was also expressed about the derelict or neglected properties here. Remedying those problems, not surprisingly looms large in people's hopes for the future. Retaining the village feel, while improving shopping and other facilities, is how people would like to see the village develop. Interestingly, we seem to look to Didsbury and Chorlton as models of how we should be. (Personally, I would cite Cheadle as a pattern, if only because of its parking arrangements behind the main street.)

Over 300 people responded, and a third of them were between 30 and 45. Only one was under 16, but 110 young people were represented in the households which replied. That is a good response from 3000 or so front doors.

I would not disagree with any of this, but I am a bit disappointed. It is what was *not* said that upsets me. While people rightly value the green spaces in Northenden, very little was said about practical ways of keeping not just Northenden but our world 'Green.' This is not just about objecting to building on the green belt, but doing things, not doing things, and approving things which promote a sound long term environment. I have written before about the need not to pave over our gardens ~ so that rainwater feeds the ground and does not overload our sewers: about how solar panels should be required of any building or improvement work, even in the conservation area. Without small actions in our own Area, it is no use bewailing changes in weather patterns, and the number of summer storms. As Manchester's first Neighbourhood Forum we have a chance to set the tone, in a city which already aims to be the greenest city in Britain; we have not, it seems, grasped the opportunity.

## **The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)**

### **South Manchester Meeting**

**There is a meeting for worship at 10.30am every Sunday.**

**at the Friends' Meeting House, Wythenshawe Rd.,**

**Children welcome.**

**\*\* Details from Lesley Thompson, 445 6778**

The main hall and smaller room are available for hire;  
~ contact: area Meeting office 834-5797  
e-mail: office @ manchesterquakers . org . uk

## *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

*# If the first Sunday clashes with a school holiday, check with Amy to see if different arrangements have been made ... as on 26<sup>th</sup>..*

- July ` 5<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Messy Church  
11.00am Morning Service **at St.Andrew's**  
6.30pm United Service at Methodist Church
- 12<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Morning Service; Mrs Angela Clowes
- 19<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Morning Service; Mr. Bob Bartindale
- 26<sup>th</sup>** 9.00am Messy Church  
11.00am Communion Service; The Rev.Tim Nicholls  
*Members' Meeting.*
- Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> 11.00am Morning Service; Mr. John Ream  
6.30pm United Service at St.Wilfrid's.
- 9<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Morning Service; Mrs. Mary Langton
- 16<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Service *at Lawton Moor*; Mrs.Sarah Hooks

### **Community Lunches**

Wed. 8<sup>th</sup> July 12.00 noon – 1.30pm  
Next lunch; Wed. Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> (To be confirmed)

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### **Various non-Church meetings;**

Neighbourhood Forum meeting at Cricket Club, Longley Lane  
.Thu. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7.30pm (Ditto, 6<sup>th</sup> August)  
*Thu. July 9<sup>th</sup>., Friends of Rose Hill Woods. 7.30pm, Church hall.*  
Tues. 14<sup>th</sup>. Civic Society social gathering in the Church Hall,  
7.30pm

# *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

Website: www . stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk

*And follow us ~ like us, befriend us even ~ on Facebook –  
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.

**Sunday Scramblers** ~ for 3½ to age 9 upwards ~ meet, until July 19<sup>th</sup>, in the Church Hall unless there is a Family Service, between 10.30 and 11.30am on Sundays

**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.

Special events, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> July.

July	5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Family Communion and Parade Service	
		6.30pm	United Service at Methodist Church	
	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion	
		6.30pm	Evening Worship.	
	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion	
		6.30pm	Evening Worship	
	26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Prayer	
		6.30pm	Holy Communion	
Aug.	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	Family Communion	
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship, @ St. Wilfrid's	
	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion	
		6.30pm	Evening Worship	
	16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Prayer	(no 8.00am service)
		6.30pm	Evening Worship	

*Drop in on St. Wilfrid's ...*

**On Sundays from 2.30 till 5pm the church is open for private prayer, for enquiries, or just to look around.**

To visit at other times, please contact the Rector.

**The Next OPEN DAYS: Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, afternoons.  
But the Tower will be open on Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> ~ boat race day.**

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all happening!



Sat. 27<sup>th</sup> **Coffee Morning Cancelled** *if this gets to you in time.*

Mon. 6<sup>th</sup> July **7.00pm** Women's Group, Barbecue.

**Wed. 8<sup>th</sup>**, 7.30pm P.C.C. meeting, Church Hall.

And a **Confirmation** Service,

at St. Paul's, Withington, **6.30pm** on Sun. 12<sup>th</sup> July.

(It's a bit late, but please see the Rector if you are interested)

Deanery Pastoral C/tee open Meeting at St. Chad's; Christian Aid.

Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> **Cream Tea** 2.00-4.00pm Church Hall.

Registers ...



### In Memoriam.

Paul Jones (Weston Grove) 67, Laura Durham (Monaco Dr.) 86,  
Doreen Sanderson (Shawdene Rd.) 81.

*Married, in the Parish Church, on 27<sup>th</sup> May ...*

Charlotte Mills to Simon Ward

Annual Meeting ~ *G.S.F.*

Apologies to Kate *Evans*, whose name I got wrong in the paper copies of Concord last month. Her husband is called Owen ~ hence my mistake.

Women's Group ~ **Sue writes...**

Our next Women's Group meeting is our Bar-B-Q on Mon. 6<sup>th</sup> July ~ provision as usual: please bring food for ½ a person! And just to confuse you, this will be from **7.00pm** onwards. Outside, weather permitting!

***I believe ..... 5. .... in the forgiveness of sins.***

*This is the next in our intermittent series on the Creed, the statement that we regularly, but I hope not too routinely, make as part of our worship in the Anglican Church.*

The first thing to note about this affirmation is that it comes in the section of the Creed which deals with the work of the Holy Spirit. It is God's Spirit who brings this part of Christ's work home to us, and gives us the moral and spiritual energy to live by it. We are not on our own with this, and when we receive a sense of forgiveness it is a sign of the Spirit at work in us.

The next point to make is about sin itself. I have heard people say that they have never sinned. What they meant was that they had never (at least to their awareness) broken any of the ten commandments, never committed adultery, never stolen, and so on. But they have forgotten how Jesus built on that: angry or murderous thoughts count against us as much as the deed itself. But even so, sin is not simply breaking some rules. The rules are there to protect people, and it is when we break relationships with God or with each other that we sin. And "we have all sinned, and fallen short of God's glory." That's the bad news! We've fallen short of the target.

But the Good News ~ literally that's what "the Gospel" means ~ is that such sin can be forgiven ~ let go of ~ through what Jesus did on the cross. "He bore our sins personally on the tree," wrote his friend St.Peter. By that action God un-broke our broken relationships with him and with those around us. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself," explained St.Paul. As we turn to Christ and ask for his forgiveness and welcome, he does welcome us: "If anyone does sin, we have someone to put our case to the Father, Jesus Christ, himself wholly right with God, and he has obtained pardon for our sins," wrote St.John.

For a lot of my Christian life I would have been happy to accept and rejoice in that message, and to preach it. But there is a different side to forgiveness too, which is part of the initial message and not a bolt on extra. Jesus taught us to pray, "forgive us our sins *as we forgive* those who sin against us." If we believe in forgiveness, we are to adopt God's attitude to sin, and those who sin against us, and forgive them. That is not to say 'it doesn't matter.' It may well be saying 'It hurts like hell!'

But it then says, 'I want to let go of the hurt and resentment.'  
"Sin, my own or other people's, will no longer have a hold on me"