

# CONCORD ~ June 2015

Prayer for the Month,

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the church  
is governed and sanctified:

Hear our prayers  
which we offer for all your faithful people,  
that all in their various vocations and ministries  
may serve you in holiness and truth,  
to the glory of your name;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

*Amen.*

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.

0161 **998 2615**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to June's Concord. This month Magpie takes a flight of fancy, and we think about Rose Hill Woods, and about woods on Northenden Golf Course that are no more.

Thank you to those of you who have expressed interest and concern about my forthcoming retirement, and have even said some nice things to me. It does mean that Sue and I will be moving from Northenden, but it will not be for some months yet. I dare say there will be the odd bun-fight to celebrate (?) and I have it in mind to arrange special services for those whom I have baptised or married (I don't think it's in my power to arrange one for those whom I have buried, and the rest of us might not want to come if I tried!) Maybe also a concert. But, God willing, there's time enough for all that.

In the mean time, there is something that I hope we can develop at St. Wilfrid's. It is something that I have been working on, perhaps too half-heartedly, for some time now, and that is arranging for more parts of our services to be led by members of the congregation. Thus, once I have left, you will be in a position to arrange at least some of the Sunday services for yourselves, in ways that suit you. If anyone wants to volunteer to take part in this, please let me know.

On a different tack, some of you may know the delightful poem called, I think, *I shall wear purple*, in which the writer threatens to do all kinds of outlandish and outrageous things when she gets old enough to be excused eccentricity ~ like banging the railings and wearing purple gear. (Bishops please note) The delightful punch line is something like, "and until then, I'm practicing!"

I wonder if there are other things we should get into practice for, for when we get old, like building up a circle of friends, whom we can help and care about and visit, and who help and care about and visit us. This is an investment for the future, against the time when the lonely days come and we have no joy in them ~ but it is also a blessing in the present, as we get into practice. We shall reap what we sow, but in this case the sowing as well as the reaping can be a joy.

And the good news is that even people who haven't practiced can have a go, anyway!

But 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*

... is one for the birds ~ he's a bird himself, of course. He had a word with the Stork last month about Charlotte Elizabeth Diana, for instance. The stork smiled, and put his pinions to his beak, knowingly. "Sorry mate," he said, "nothing doing. Mum's the word on that one, mum's the word."

The Owl was different. They have a reputation, you see, which is not always happy, of an acquaintance with death. Or should he say Death? It's that ghostly night-time flight, he supposes. (And not always in the expected places ~ he met one in April flying across Didsbury Road, near the M60, junction 1, in Stockport.) So the Owl was different; he was ready to talk. He'd been listening in on his friend Death, you see, and had an interesting story to tell. "I hope it's not copyright," he said, "what with him being a famous writer and all."

"Oh, yes?" said Magpie, all ears.

"I was just flying along," the Owl went on, "and I heard this VOICE, and there was Death in all his glory, waving that big scythe of his."

"Oh, yes?" said Magpie, with an encouraging tone of squawk.

"TERRY PRATCHETT," he said, said the Owl. "OR NO, SIR TERENCE ~ I BEG YOUR PARDON."

'GRANTED,' said this gadgie, in a slightly smaller VOICE, 'BUT WHO ARE YOU?'

'I'M DEATH, OF COURSE. DON'T YOU RECOGNISE ME? ... BUT YOU CAN DO THE VOICE TOO? HOW?'

'BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE ONLY A LITERARY DEVICE, A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION. AND I INVENTED YOUR VOICE, SO OF COURSE I CAN DO IT!'

'MMM,' said Death, 'A LITERARY DEVICE? THAT'S A NEW ONE. YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME ON THOSE GROUNDS. AND A FIGMENT OF THE IMAGINATION? BUT OH, TERRY, DON'T YOU KNOW YOUR PLATO? THE IMAGINATION TUNES IN TO REALITIES.'

'BUT I IMAGINED THAT WE GOT WHAT WE EXPECTED, AND I DIDN'T REALLY EXPECT ANYTHING. THAT'S WHAT I WROTE.'

'NOW THERE'S A THING! BUT COME ALONG WITH ME. THERE'S SOMEONE WHO SPECIALLY WANTS TO MEET YOU.'

'I DON'T SUPPOSE I HAVE A CHOICE NOW, DO I?'

**'No, Terry, you don't; not yet, anyway, but it may be worth your while! Yes, there are Realities; *Truth is stranger than fiction*, as they say. I'm pleased to meet you. It's not often I get to meet someone else who has created a world, even if it is a flat one. Oh, and just for the record, it was I who invented kind and gentle brother Death' (Death grinned as only Death can, and took a bow) 'to lead my children home. And he's a creature of my imagination, so is more real than**

**anything you could ever dream of. But be my guest for a while, and look around.'**

'But if You're who I think you are,' he said, dropping THE VOICE, 'I've got a bone to pick with You.'

**'Yes?'**

'It's all these people who kill and fight and destroy and say they're doing it for You and demand that everyone's got to believe what they do, and ...'

**'... who take my name in vain, you mean, like your Omnians. Yes, and who don't think the bit about not taking my name in vain applies to them. I know, Terry. I've been on the wrong end of some of that!'**

And after that," said the Owl, "they moved out of earshot, even my earshot, and I heard them no more."

"Mmm, ... really?" said Magpie.

... has solved the mystery why the tower block on the Church Road corner is referred to as No 1 Church Rd. The shop entrance is to be there, even if the flats are entered from Palatine Rd. He has also noticed that the window beside the shop door is already cracked, at boot level! He heard a new name for it the other day too: it does look a bit like the prow of a ship, surging through the stormy seas of Northenden high street, and someone called it the Titanic. Oh, dear! It seems to have hit a minor iceberg recently ~ there is a planning application in for raising the ceiling of the stair-well, or something like that, since it was not high enough in the original approved plans! But don't worry, it's not something you'd notice from outside.

... has also flown past the Tatton Arms, and noticed some orange blobs on the brickwork. Not graffiti, but Surveyors' marks. Signs, along with the clearance of undergrowth, that this icon of Northenden is not totally forgotten. Let's see what the owner's proposals are, and react to them, not our own anxieties.

**You've got a Friend!**

At least, if you are Rose Hill Woods, behind Bronington Close, you now have a Friends' group. A meeting called under the Civic Society's umbrella (much needed that day!) met on Tue. 19th May to hear ideas for the rejuvenation of that woodland, partly as a memorial woodland under the charity Life for a Life, with the support of Manchester City Council. The wood was

planted by Absalom Watkin, who ought to be one of Northenden's most famous sons, but is largely unknown, despite his central role in much of the liberalising legislation in the early-mid 19th century. A monument to him, put up by his even more influential son, Sir Edward, stands on the edge of the wood, and it is hoped to renovate that too. The "Friends" hope to tap into grants and other sources of funding to make the woods more "accessible", not in the sense of opening them to misuse, but to make the paths safer and remove fallen trees or undergrowth that blocks them. We hope to produce information about the Watkin family, and the house and woodland. Meanwhile, if you feel energetic, a "Watkin Walk" leaflet is available in St. Wilfrid's Church. The next open public meeting of the Friends will be on Tues. 9th July at St. Wilfrid's Ch. Hall at 7.30pm. Geoff Scargill, who has done considerable research into the Watkin family, was elected Chairman of the group.

*And the Wood that is no more ...*

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your enquiry, I will do my best to answer your questions.

The Forestry Commission uphold regulation set out in The Forestry Act (1967) and do so through granting felling licences and prosecuting acts of illegal felling through various means. Any land owner can fell up to 5 cubic metres of timber per calendar quarter without the need of a felling licence. I can confirm that Northenden Golf Club did not have a felling licence in place for this particular operation and hence we have started an investigation into suspected illegal felling. Unfortunately, due to confidentiality reasons I cannot say any more about the findings of our investigations yet. I'm comfortable telling you that there were approximately 35 cut stumps on site and the species were predominantly common oak with some sycamore, birch and sitka spruce mixed in.

My investigation will be considered by our National Regulations Manager and he will decide how best to deal with the landowner. We have the option of a Warning letter, Restocking notice or fine. In cases like these we tend to use restocking notices as they will ensure woodland cover does

not decrease and if we did use one it would be inspected by ourselves.

I hope this helps, if you need any further information please let me know. Kind regards *Jake Thompson*  
Woodland Officer, Forestry Commission.

## *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.*

June 7th 9.00am Messy Church

11.00am Morning Service (The Rev. Tim Nicholls ?)

6.30pm United Service @ St. Wilfrid's

14<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Morning Service ~ the Jun. to Aug. preaching roster is not available as Concord goes to press this month.

21<sup>st</sup> 11.00am Morning Service

28<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Morning Service

July ` 5<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Messy Church

11.00am Morning Service

6.30pm United Service at Methodist Church

12<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Morning Service

### **Community Lunches**

Wed. 10<sup>th</sup> June 12.00 noon – 1.30pm

Next lunch; Wed. July 8<sup>th</sup> (To be confirmed)

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## ***What is Frip Ethique?***

Frip Ethique is an Oxfam-run social enterprise in Senegal. Most of the workers are women, who sort and sell clothes donated to Oxfam - including bras - to local market traders.

*To find out more, come and listen to Ian Falkingham at the Oxfam Shop, 778 Wilmslow Rd., Didsbury, Fri. 19 June, 4.00pm.*

# *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](http://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, for the moment, 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.

Fathers' Day celebrations on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

Special events, 27<sup>th</sup> June and 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> July.

June 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Family Communion and Parade Service  
6.30pm United Service at St. Wilfrid's.

14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evening Worship

21<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evening Worship

28<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Prayer  
6.30pm Holy Communion

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.

*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.

**OPEN DAYS: June 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, afternoons.**

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all happening! 

Mon. 1<sup>st</sup> June Women's Group Rectory **7.30pm.**

**Wed. 3<sup>rd</sup> June PCC meeting,** 7.30pm, Church Hall.

Thur. 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop David's visit to the Deanery ~ special  
service and event at Emmanuel Church, Didsbury, 7.30pm ~  
open to all church members (not just PCC or Synod reps)

Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> **11.00am – 1.30pm** Summer Fair. Church Hall

Sat. 20<sup>th</sup>, Sun. 21<sup>st</sup> **Church Open Days** **Sat. 12noon – 6pm**  
**(see panel below)** **Sun. 2.00 – 6.00pm**

Sat. 27<sup>th</sup> 10.00 – 11.30am Coffee Morning. Church Hall

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

And a **Confirmation** Service,

at St. Paul's, Withington, 3.00pm on Sun. 12<sup>th</sup> July.  
(Please see the Rector if you are interested)

Registers ...



### In Memoriam.

Ethel Etchells (Penarth Rd.) 91, Florence Birtles (100)

*Baptised, on Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> May ...*

Amber Jane Lloyd

We also welcomed at St. Wilfrid's ~ his mother's family church ~  
Lucas Pickets, who was baptised in Dorking earlier in the month.

*Married, in the Parish Church, on 16<sup>th</sup> May ...*

Lisa Dempster to Kevin Bruce

## In Memoriam ...

In the *in memoriam* section you will see the name Florence Birtles, and next to it the number 100. I put a brief note of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in Concord a month or so back. It was a target she was aiming for, and having reached her goal she seems to have relaxed a bit and let go. *Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace.* When I first met her, she and Harry, her beloved husband came to our 8.00am Sunday 1662 communion service. They actually lived in St.Luke's parish (having moved in when most of it was still fields) and had been involved in establishing that church. Latterly, after his death, she moved into sheltered accommodation even further away (so few if any in St.Wilfrid's now will remember her) and I visited her from time to time to bring her communion. She was full of years, full of faith in her Lord, and also full of gratitude for God's blessings in her family, and in the circle of friends she still kept in touch with, in the place where she lived, and in her health, which held up well until very recently. Thanks be to God!

## Annual Meeting ~ G.S.F.

I probably said enough about the church finances last month ~ we are running a deficit, though not quite as bad as last year's, and would welcome any increases in giving or other fund-raising.

But more importantly, we welcome a new Churchwarden alongside Gwyneth Lloyd. She is Kate Evans, and has been busy learning the ropes over the past few weeks.

## Sunday Scramblers ... JLM.

After over 40 years, 34 of them as leader, I have decided to retire. This is not a sudden decision; I informed the PCC last year that I was thinking about retiring. Earlier this year I decided to retire when the Sunday Scramblers broke up for the summer break in July. The PCC was then informed of my decision.

It has been a privilege to teach the children about God's love and care for us, and about the different people in both the Old and New Testaments. My hope is that Sunday Scramblers can continue with new leaders and go from strength to strength.

**Joan Mycock.**

*And can I add a note of thanks to Joan for her dedicated work over the whole time that I have been in Northenden, It has been much appreciated, and generations of children have benefitted from her patient and consistent service. We should all be grateful.*

**G.S.F.**

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

Thank you to everyone who provided paint or money for paint for the railings around the churchyard. They are coming along slowly, weather (and parked cars) permitting!

And again weather permitting, we'll have 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.

### **Open Days ...**

**... a chance to look around the church,  
and investigate Northenden's history and future (and your  
own family too, perhaps)**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 12 noon till 6.00pm**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>, 2.00 till 6.00pm.**

**Climb the Tower (see Old Trafford, or Eastlands!)  
Displays about the church and the village.  
Church records (baptisms, marriages, burials, &c.)**

## ***I believe ... 3. "...in the Holy Spirit ..."*** G.S.F.

*Sunday by Sunday in church we repeat the Creed as part of our worship, affirming our belief in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in forgiveness, the Christian community, and the hope of eternal life. It is worth looking at the creed and unpacking it, so that it is not just a mantra we recite, but something we understand (a bit, at any rate) and aim to live by. Given that we are in the season of Pentecost, I am going to skip again, to the part of the Creed which refers to the work of the Spirit, and come back to earlier sections some other time.*

To speak of God as Spirit is for some people the most obvious thing in the world ~ or out of it ~ and for others the most difficult. That there is a reality which is greater than all we

know, and with whom we can be in tune, in that sphere of our existence and awareness which moves out beyond the spectrum of emotion and aesthetics and feeling into a further dimension ~ that can seem obvious, if intangible, to some. But for those brought up to see only tangible realities of space and materials and time and history it is too aethereal and unreal. We can begin to understand, and accept or reject, the idea of a Creator who brought all we see and know into being; we can envisage a Son, a representative who somehow spoke and lived out this Creator's purpose in human terms ~ even if we cannot accept all that is said of him. But Spirit? What do Christians mean by this?

What we are talking about is something more than an attitude or a feeling or mood. This is more than talking about "the spirit of the age," or someone having a "spirit of generosity" or even describing someone's character as being "a noble spirit". We are trying to talk about Someone whose reality is greater than a merely human characteristic, or a sum of human attitudes, even if it is not expressed in physical ways. Having said that, we are also talking about Someone who brings God's presence home to us here and now. He is not just a figure in history, or even just a majestic Creator, but Someone who provides support and help, here and now, as Lord and Giver of life.

So we speak ~ the bible speaks ~ about the way he works with and for us through the gifts of the Spirit, and the fruit of the Spirit, and the fellowship or teamwork of the Holy Spirit. In the book of Acts, where the distinctive coming of the Spirit to the church is described, we see something of the dramatic gifts the Spirit gives, but that chapter (ch.2) ends with a description of the new church sharing its resources, meeting to pray and to learn from the first disciples of Jesus ~ the twelve ~ and sharing meals. Thus the result of the dramatic arrival of the Spirit is seen not just in the big experiences, but also in the practical teamwork support and companionship of people eager to learn more about what Jesus taught, buoyed up by the freedom and forgiveness he brings, and then live it out in practice.

But the big experiences can be there, as part of the package. That same chapter describes the first Christians lifted out of themselves and their fears into levels of worship they had never dreamed of. St. Paul writes about people gifted to share the Christian message with courage and clarity, to pray for

healing and freedom from evil, and also to exercise gifts of leadership and financial management which we might see as routine, or at least secular, but which he saw as God-given. (I Cor. ch 12). In these ways the Spirit makes God's reality felt in ways which build up the Christian community, rather than aggrandise individuals.

St. Paul had a memorable turn of phrase, but what he talks about is found in other New Testament writings too, as the work of God's Spirit is described. He also talks about the fruit the Spirit grows in us ~ love, joy, peace, patience and the like; qualities which do not need a set of rules or a series of policy documents to shape our lives. The new law of God grows like plants in our lives. We may not realise that this is happening, but as we let the Spirit blow through our lives, as we pray, as we worship together, as we let the bible's story influence our living and thinking, then he does work in and with us. One of the bible pictures of the Spirit is the wind of God ~ the Hebrew and Greek words for Spirit are the same as their words for wind, in fact. A strong wind may blow out branches from a tree, and shape it in that way; a steady prevailing wind can shape it as it grows, as you often see near the coast, so that even in still air, or against a contrary wind, it still leans the way it is trained. So in our lives, God's Spirit will shape us, if we allow him, for God's glory and our good.

## **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**