

2 0 ~ M a r c h ~ 1 0

Prayer for the Month ~

**Sovereign Lord,
may we who enjoy the benefit of such a rich and varied
world, filled with so many resources,
have the wisdom and humility to use what we have
wisely and with restraint and foresight,
out of respect for yourself and what you have given us,
out of consideration and sympathy for those who go
short of life's necessities,
and out of gratitude for your goodness to us.**

Amen

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane,
Manchester, M 22 4 NQ
0161 - 998-2615

gsf @ stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk

Dear Friends,

We may, or may not, have a national Budget some time this month, so here are some thoughts on personal budgets; we are in the middle of Lent (hence the prayer above) and Easter comes on 4th April, so some early thoughts on that.

Our organist at St. Wilfrid's for over 20 years, Arthur Mellor, died suddenly in January, just before the last issue of Concord went to press. I have written a longer obituary for this issue. 8th - 12th March is "Will Week", so here are some details. We have the usual mixture of diary dates and snippets of news, and advance notice of Christian Aid Week, among other things. And Magpie visits Church House, Westminster.

The Council is making £15,000 available in Northenden *Ward* for people to propose small schemes to benefit the community, and then vote on the allocation of money to them. We include details.

So now read on, ...

But finally, on a more personal note, Sue has asked me to thank everyone who has either written or spoken to her with condolences over the death of her mother, in Shropshire, in the first half of February.

Yours faithfully,

Greg Forster

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,

N orthenden Methodist Church.

Palatine Road.

Minister: the Revd. David Bown,
5 Kenworthy Lane, Northenden, M 22 4 JF
0161 998 – 2158

Sunday Services.

Mar. 7th 11.00am Mr. Caseley
6.30pm United Service The Revd. David Bown.

14th **Mothering Sunday**
11.00am The Revd. David Sanders

21st **Passion Sunday**
11.00am Holy Communion. The Revd. David Bown

28th **Palm Sunday**
11.00am The Revd. Malcolm Purdy

April. 4th **Easter Sunday**
11.00am Details to be announced.
6.30pm United Service at St. Wilfrid's Church.

Community Lunch ...

... Wednesday 10th March, from 12.00 – 1.30pm

Fun Bingo will probably be on 27th March , from Noon till 2.00pm
~ listen out for the details.

e-Concord? ~ a reminder.

It occurs to me that people might like to receive the magazine electronically. If you want a copy emailed, let me know (the e-address is on page 1.) Or you can look it up on St. Wilfrid's website (details by the St. Wilfrid's logo on page 4)

The Children's Society ...

**... have a charity shop at 356 Palatine Rd.
Normal opening hours are 9.00am – 5.00pm.,
with a range of Good-as-New goods,
especially books.**

There is also a wide selection of new, end-of-run, wallpapers.
Volunteers are needed in the shop; contact Debbie on 945-7384

Northenden Players.

The Players' next production is
The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, by Jay Presson Allen,
Mar. 21st & 23rd to 27th.
in the Hall at Northenden Methodist Church, Victoria Rd.
For details or booking, ring 445-6868

N orthenden F armers' Markets ~ ...

On the 6th Feb. they brought the weather with them ~ the good weather this time! There is a market on March 6th 2010 as usual, and also on the first Saturday in April despite the holiday week-end, 10am to 4pm.

Food that is good for you and good for the village.

Unemployed due to ill health?

Are you, or is someone you know, in this position? The Government has a scheme to help such people get back into work, and in this area it is being put into action by a group called Sencia. They can offer career advice, support once you are back in work, advice on benefits and support grants available, and on how to prepare your CV, and much more.

www . sencia . co . uk, or ring Neil Jones on 07525 903 822.

Drop in ... 2.00 – 5.00pm.

St. Wilfrid's church is open each Sunday

for prayer and peace, visiting and just looking round, enquiries about baptisms, weddings, ancestor hunting, ... &c.

St. Wilfrid's Church,

Ford Lane. (Off Church Rd.)

Rector: Greg Forster (998-2615)

Organist: Arthur Mellor (928-0472)

[www . stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk](http://www.stwilfridsnorthenden.org.uk)

Services, & c.:



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.

Communion on Sundays at 8.00am

and on Thursdays at 10.00am

Mar. 7th 10.30am Holy Communion (Standard)
6.30pm United Service at Methodist Church.

14th Mothering Sunday

10.30am Family Service & Parade

6.30pm Holy Communion. (1662)

21st. 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

28th 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

April 1st **Maundy Thursday. 7.30pm Holy Communion**

2nd **Good Friday 10.30am Readings & Hymns**

4th **Easter Sunday**

10.30am Family Communion

6.30pm United Evening worship @ St. Wilfrid's

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

CHAPTERS

@ St. Wilfrid's Hall

On Saturdays 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!)

Wed. 3rd Mar. 8.00pm Bible Study/discussion. Rectory.
 Mon. 8th Mar., 7.45 for 8.00pm. Women's Group, Rectory.
Kathryn Morgan ~ Europe is Fun!
 Wed. 10th, 17th, 24th 8.00pm Bible Study, &c. Rectory
 Thu. 25th 7.30pm P.C.C Meeting, Hall, 7.30pm
 Sat. 27th 10am ... *Chapters* meets **the Coffee Morning**
 Mon 29th School Governors' Meeting
 Wed. 31st. No bible study (nor Apr. 7th)

FROM THE REGISTERS;

In Memoriam ...

Joshua Barnes (Roundwood Rd.) 18, John Owen (Newall Green).
 Margaret Harwood, (Royle Green Rd.) 67.

Arthur Mellor, d. 17th Jan. 2010.

Arthur died suddenly on 17th Jan., on his way home from playing for the Sunday service. Needless to say, this came as a great shock not only to his family but also to his many friends both at St. Wilfrid's, where he has been organist for over 20 years, but in the other walks of life in which he has had an interest and commitment. Before coming here he was organist in a number of other churches in Greater Manchester and Cheshire, and he also worked, in his retirement, as lead organist at Manchester crematorium. He also served in the Manchester Society of Organists in various capacities, ending as their President. His day job was as a banker, starting from school as a teller and after a break for war service progressing up to manager and personal investment advisor. to manager and personal investment advisor.

He would have an opinion about most things. That Sunday he spent some time before the service telling me the hymn tunes which he disliked, and which, he thought, were a symptom of the Church of England's decline. Nevertheless, he was a man who took his duty seriously, and he would play these tunes if asked to with his usual expertise if not with enthusiasm. For this, and for very much else, he commands our respect and gratitude. Thank you, Arthur!

Readers will no doubt have their own memories and anecdotes of Arthur. We shall miss him, and not only because the organ lies silent (at least for a while). He had indicated that he intended to retire in the summer. He was finding it

increasingly difficult to get to church, since his sight was failing and his injured leg giving increasing trouble. As a result I had begun to make enquiries as to a successor (not least from him). I did not expect to have to hasten them so suddenly.

Our best wishes and condolences go to Barbara, his widow, and to Stephen and Carol, his children, and to their families too. Arthur left instructions for his own funeral ~ he was always methodical and meticulous. He specified Psalm 139 to be read; words which expressed his own quiet faith. *O Lord, thou hast searched me out and known me ... whither can I go from thy presence ... I am fearfully and wonderfully made, such knowledge is too wonderful for me* ... but you can look it up yourselves.

In the words of one of the contributions in the book of condolence we prepared for his family at St. Wilfrid's, "Good bye, old friend."

Haiti Appeal.

You will recall that last month I mentioned the appeal we put out in St. Wilfrid's following the earthquake in Haiti. When I wrote £107 had been raised. Since then a further £83 was donated, so that I have credited a total of £190 to the Disasters Emergency Committee for their combined relief work in that country. Thank you all who contributed. I have closed the church appeal for this, but I imagine that you can still donate to DEC or any of its constituent charities towards this cause. **GSF**

Northenden Churchyard.

Yes, it's time for my post-Christmas grouse again ~ or not so much a grouse as simple information. Christmas wreaths lasted longer than usual this year, since they were deep-frozen for half of January. However, once the "Christmas season" is officially over, on 2nd Feb., I feel free to remove them. This applies to *plastic* wreaths and flowers too (which, for the record, are not supposed to be in a churchyard in the first place, according to national regulations). I treat plastic flowers like natural ones; when they are tatty and faded they are removed. It just takes a bit longer for them to go. Better still, I would be happiest if people who lay floral tributes returned to tidy them, and place some fresh ones, if that is possible. **GSF**

U-Decide, ...

As part of a national scheme to enhance community life the council is making £15,000 available for small schemes

proposed by community groups in the area, none of them over £2,000, in Northenden Ward, and is also inviting ideas for other schemes on which Councillors and officers will decide. There have been meetings in Benchill, Northen Moor and Northenden to publicise this, and there is a final meeting, on Monday 15th Mar. at St. Wilfrid's School, from 6.00 – 8.30pm, at which members of the public will be asked to vote on proposals as presented at the meeting (each group will be allocated a certain number of votes, so that no-one can pack the meeting!). If you can get a bid in by 1st March, so much the better. (The Rector has some details and forms.) But come along anyway, and listen, and vote.

THE PIPER AND THE HOMELESS MAN

A friend sent us this by email recently! **GSF**

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a grave side service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back-country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost; and being a typical man I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished I packed up my pipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low my heart was full.

As I was opening the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, " I never seen nothin' like that before an' I've been putting in septic tanks these twenty year."

Christian Aid Week 9 – 15 May 2010.

This is, as usual, the second week in May, the 9th to the 15th. We are grateful for help given in the past by people collecting in the village, and I hope as many of you as possible

will be able to do so again. If there are any others who would be willing to collect either in their own immediate area, or in a →

Boat Lane Court

Tel: 0161 945 7064

34 Brett Street, Northenden, Manchester, M22 4EZ

**VERY SHELTERED HOUSING FOR
RETIRED PEOPLE**

**For more information or a brochure
Please call**

**FREEPHONE 0800 389 9384 or
0161 945 7064**

- Spacious private apartments available
- Friendly staff on hand in emergencies 24hrs a day
- A Care Call system with pull cords fitted in every room
- A restaurant offering a waitress-served, 3 course meal at cost each day
- Delightful communal lounge and function room
- Weekly domestic assistance, external and grounds maintenance included in the service charge
- A welcoming community with busy social scene



 **BOAT LANE
COURT LIMITED**

Christian Aid Week, cont.

street a bit further away, I should be grateful for that help too. Please have a word with me.

I shall be co-ordinating our efforts this year, since June and Brian Phillipson have decided to give up for health reasons, as I may have mentioned after CAW last year. Our thanks to them for their efforts over many years. ... and if anyone feels able to take on the co-ordination for 2011, I should be very glad to hear from you, and explain what it entails!

This is important and worth-while work. I wrote a month or so ago about how the financial situation in Britain, and the drop in the value of the sterling, have squeezed Christian Aid's resources very severely. The more we can raise the better. Last year it was a bit over £2,000. What will it be this time?

LENT ~ AND EASTER.

Lent has traditionally been thought of as a time to give things up. I have written before about how we should *take things up*, instead, like worship or prayer or bible study to a greater degree than we do. Set yourselves, perhaps, the challenge of reading half a page of Mark's gospel a day (it covers 20 pages in my bible) and thinking about what it says ~ what does it teach about God, Father, Son or holy Spirit? what examples are there to follow, or avoid? is there a key verse to learn? ~ and praying about it. Perhaps we should also think of what we might *offer up* in gratitude. Christian Aid invite us to count our blessings in a leaflet which I plan to make available in *Concord* and in Church over Lent. (or find it on www.christianaid.org.uk/lent)

And **Easter**? The heart of Christian faith! This issue of *Concord* contains more than its fair share of death and sorrow, but beyond that sorrow there is a promise of hope, enshrined in the events of the first Easter. Christ is risen, and so, even if in our old human nature we face death, identified with Christ we look forward to richer, fuller life. On this, more next month!

Will Week ~ March 8th – 12th Greg Forster

In some publicity which I recently received from St. Anne's Hospice was a note about "Will Week". During this time a number of Solicitors undertake to prepare a will ~ so long as it is a fairly straightforward one ~ for you for free, so long as you make a donation to the hospice. (last year donations ranged from £50 – £150) Look up details if you have the technology on

www.sah.org.uk/willweek , or ask the Rector for fuller information. There are a number of solicitors on the list with M20 or SK8 addresses though no M22s.

I am not sure whether this is simply a St.Anne's hospice event, or whether it is part of a wider charity will-making effort (I have received similar material from Christian Aid and others in other years). Either way, it is a good idea for you and for the charity. You may think that you do not have enough of an estate to bother with making a will, but do not be misled. A will indicates to your next of kin how you want your property shared round. It clearly gives someone the authority to act for you. If you do not make one there is a standard scheme set in law which they must follow. With a will it is relatively easy to get authority to administer the estate; without it it gets complicated and you are bequeathing them a headache! If you have no next of kin, a will means that you can benefit people or charities whom you want to help; without it all your assets go to the Duchy of Lancaster (if you live in Northenden itself or old Lancashire ~ in the rest of England it goes to the Crown). Though it *is* then used charitably you might prefer to make your own decisions and gifts.

Many people leave money to a church or charity. That is part of the idea of Willweek, apart from anything else. I do have to declare an interest here, but I would suggest that you make it a serious bequest, rather than just a sop. One hears stories of people mentioning the idea to their solicitor, who then comes up with the idea of £100 or so to whatever the charity is. OK, if that's all you want to leave, leave that. But if you were really thinking of, say, £1,000, don't be put off by the professional. It's your will, not his!

And a final note; keep the will up to date. St.Wilfrid's has benefitted in the past from a number of quite generous bequests written in terms of " and the balance of my estate ..." after specified amounts are given to relatives or friends. We are naturally grateful but we wonder whether people's real intentions were fulfilled. Over the years since a will was made, say in 1980, that specified amount has stayed the same, but as house prices have rocketed the balance of the estate has rocketed too. Either revisit the will every so often, or express your wishes in terms of a percentage. And certainly revise it after the extra children or grand-children are born, or you may find a favourite relative gets left out by default, to everyone's grief and perhaps quite a bit of aggro too.

Magpie ...

... overheard the "Manchester" debate in the Church of England's General Synod in connection with **Faith and Science**. It was a strange debate. No-one wanted to oppose the motion, which affirmed that the church sees no conflict between modern scientific method and study, and faith (Christian or otherwise), and which encouraged bishops and dioceses to do their best to get that point across to a public which has been mesmerised by atheists with a gift for the blarney and a degree in science. The final vote was 200 or so in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions (and a number of synod members joking that they might have been one of the two, since they were never sure whether they had pushed the right button on their hi-tech voting machines. Ah! the wonders of science!) Watch out for a report in ***Crux***.

The speeches were quite moving, as people spoke about their own work as scientists and how it enriched their faith as they discovered the wonders of creation; of how, they now saw, they had been blinded by a pseudo-scientific, anti-religious world view until something had happened which they could not comprehend within narrow scientism, ... and so on. One non-scientist spoke; the vicar of St.Chad's Shrewsbury, where Charles Darwin was baptised and grew up. To mark the Darwin bicentennial a number of people from the town ~ mostly non-religious ~ had approached him to organise a series of meetings and talks to discuss Darwin's life and work and impact, using the church as a venue. They had been proving a great success, with 200 or more people attending on a midweek evening, again, mostly non-churchgoers. And, he added with a mischievous glint in his eye, the chairman of the local Secular Society had approached him asking if they could borrow the church for their monthly meetings, because it was such a fine venue! Yes, we do have our uses.

... As they were on the way to church a Sunday school teacher asked her children, 'Why do we have to be quiet in church?' One little girl replied, 'Because people are sleeping?'

... looks forward to the traffic calming work on Longley Lane, with crossings and chicanes to make it more people-friendly. It has been a while in coming, but even if the work had been done months ago it would probably not have altered things in the tragic accident to Josh Barnes by the present crossing. The church was full ~ 300 people ~ for his funeral, which was in itself

a tremendous tribute to him. Our sympathy and prayers go for his family and friends and everyone caught up in that tragedy.

Of Budgets and people. *GSF*

There will be a budget soon, unless we get an election instead. I will write about elections in a later Concord, but in case Mr. Brown gets in first, do vote; think conscientiously about how; and think about the community, not just your own interest.

But back to budgets, or rather to personal finances. Several years ago, before they invented credit crunches, I wrote about the unsupportable debt people have got themselves into. I am not writing about national debt but about personal debt on credit cards, catalogues, or stuff bought on a buy now pay next year basis. I am sure you can imagine the sort of thing I mean.

Firstly, we are responsible for what we buy, and how we spend. In making these choices we should exercise prudence, and avoid greed. The New Testament treats that very harshly, comparing it to idolatry. We may not think that is too big a criticism, but for those Jewish writers it was about the biggest criticism they could think of. I believe we should keep such debt down to a level that could be paid off within a month or so, so that we are using a convenient way of paying, rather than shackling ourselves to a long term burden.

But the responsibility is not all on the part of us individuals. How many times have you had a letter, unsolicited, from the bank, informing you that your credit limit has been increased ~ or inviting you to take out that loan which they have already so generously earmarked for you? *Lead us not into temptation!* If such credit cannot reasonably be paid for and paid off, then we as customers should not dream of taking it out. A bank making such offers is acting immorally ~ it is enticing people into commitments which they cannot keep up and so into poverty. It is also not acting in the best interests of its shareholders ~ which is illegal for a start. It is creating for them assets whose value is hollow. Banks which tout for business in this way should accept financial and moral responsibility for the loss themselves if such a loan cannot be repaid.

The Old Testament holds up for us the dream of a culture in which loans to meet real need are granted generously, but loans which cannot be repaid are written off (not foreclosed) after so many years ~ so that wealth (and hardship) was shared and no-one driven to inescapable poverty. They called it Jubilee.