

CONCORD ~ May 2014

Prayer for the Month

Almighty God,
whose son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and life
of all who put their trust in him;
raise us, we pray, from the death of sin
to the life of righteousness,
so that in our life here and now we may seek out and reflect
the qualities of your kingdom above,
where he reigns with you and the holy Spirit,
one God, now and to all eternity. Amen.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.

0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

We are well into the season of Easter now, and I hope that gives us a sense of hope which is more than just a reaction to warmer weather and longer days. It is not just a hope of eternal life beyond what we know here and now ~ though it includes that ~ but a sense that even when things can be difficult, the love of God, and the forgiveness and welcome that he offers even when we may face difficulties ourselves or in our families or community, combine to reassure us that we are not wasting our time. Easter is a reminder that we should let "the things that are above" ~ the values and lifestyle that are shaped by the peace and purpose of heaven ~ mould our lives here and now.

Once again we feature stories from the First World War. They are drawn from what parishioners have told me recently. Do you have any memories or family traditions to pass on? I gather that children from St. Wilfrid's School will also be collecting stories and memories in the next couple of months.

Can I draw your attention to the notices of activities of Northenden Neighbourhood Forum and the Civic Society in this issue. In particular the Forum, which covers all the housing in the triangle between the motorways and the river, is holding a General Meeting on 8th May. The more people who get involved in this, the greater weight there will be in what the Forum says about the development of our area, in terms of economy, housing

and the environment, and about specific planning proposals. This is the first such group in Manchester, and already colleagues in other areas of the county have been asking me what it involves and how similar forums might be set up.

So now read on.

Greg Forster

“We will remember them” 1914-1919 ~ no. 5

In Northenden churchyard we have 23 “war graves”, from the Great War. Some are burials under family headstones; others simply inscriptions recording a son or husband “buried in France.” There are graves too of those who served and survived. Each month I am telling their stories.

I have invited readers to tell the stories of their relatives, and this month I include a few of them.

Noel Bundred is actually buried ~ or rather his ashes are interred ~ in the churchyard. It so happens that they are right beside those of Archie Herbert whose story I told in January. He only came to Northenden in the post-war years, because of his wife’s family connections in Manchester. You could say that he had a good war, serving as a simple private soldier. At least he came home, uninjured, and confident enough to remain in the Army for many years afterwards. His daughter Barbara is too young to remember him immediately after the conflict, but her impression was that it had affected him emotionally and left some mental scars. He subsequently served in the Education Corps, in this country and in India, before retiring here, where he became involved in St. Wilfrid’s Church as a lay reader for many years.

The theme of emotional scars is one which recurs often. We shall come across it when we look in a later piece at the part Lowry Hamilton played in the war ~ he was Rector at the time, and served his time as an acting chaplain to the forces in France.

Elijah Hamblett is also buried here, though there is no mention of his war service on the grave. His grandson (I think it was) was enquiring recently about the grave, and remembered that his grandfather served in both first and second world wars, and had a chestful of medals. He had been in one of the Manchester Regiment battalions, he thought, and had received a leg wound at some stage. The only service record of an E. Hamblett (spelled that way) that I have been able to find is of

someone who enlisted in the RFC/RAF in 1916. His medals were only the standard campaign ones, which everyone got just for being there ~ but no less valuable and deserved for that.

Joyce Burgess has told me of her father, **William Burgess**. 'He was one of so many young men,' she writes, 'who were called up at that time and he served with the Manchester Regiment as was at Gallipoli in 1915.' The 8th Battalion of that Regiment, based at Ardwick, landed at Cape Helles on 6th May 1915. A beachhead had been established on April 25th, but it was never really more than a beachhead despite heroic efforts and sacrifices. The intention was to silence Turkish guns guarding the Dardanelles, and enable the fleet to attack Constantinople, then the Turkish capital. Famously the point was defended by a force of about 1,300 under Turkey's later president, Mustafa Kemal, who ordered defence even when they had run out of ammunition and supplies. Only 11 came away from there uninjured, but that defence and the reputation it gave Kemal (Ataturk) can be said to have shaped Turkey's destiny till early *this* century. How much of our recent history in Europe and the Middle East can be seen as a spin off from events from 1914 to 1922 or so!

'During the fighting,' Joyce continues, 'his officer, 2nd Lt.P.C. Johnson, was killed and my dad and three other privates buried him. Later the officer's mother and sister wrote to the four men and by way of thanking them sent each one a leather cigarette case, inscribed with the words Gallipoli 1915 and the soldier's initials. My dad was a non-smoker so the case is in pristine condition, unlike the letter which I daren't now unfold in case it falls into dust. My father survived the war, and some years later married my mother and then produced my sister and myself. He never spoke of the war in our hearing ~ it was my mother who kept all these things.'

'I dare say there are many stories like this,' she concludes, 'so it is good to remember them.'

Percy Clarkson Johnson had no connection with Manchester that I can trace, other than his posting to this regiment. He was killed on 16th May, and is commemorated on the memorial at Cape Helles. The War Graves Commission has no record of the actual grave. He was 40, and had served as a Captain in the South African War, it seems. CWGC records show a family home

in South Kensington, but also mention his wife Marie in Southern Rhodesia. The Manchesters were withdrawn to Egypt on 9th January 1916, following heavy casualties, according to the regimental history .

Magpie ...

... flits around a bit, and is pleased to see another of his perches turned to dust. This time it is the Church Inn, which is now a mere façade. This façade is to remain, with a group of "town houses" build into its shell, while the cleared ground behind, and the old car park, will contain some smaller terraces and a couple of flats.

... nearby, the ferris fencing has come down on the so called boat house, so the three cottages build into that will soon be occupied. The Tatton Arms continues as an eye-sore, but there are indications that the council is talking with a potential developer there too ~ no more can be said yet. Whatever happens, let's hope the builders waste and rubble gets removed from its frontage before too long.

... understand that the doctors at Northenden Health Centre have discovered the telephone. Rather than arranging an appointment, they will ring you back. Magpie is sorry, but despite the enthusiastic sales pitch reproduced below, he finds it difficult to believe that a telephone is a more effective diagnostic tool than a stethoscope, and a face to face encounter. But then, perhaps he is just old fashioned. Of course, life would be so much easier for doctors and receptionists alike if there were no patients to contend with. However, Magpie thinks he suffers from a kind of jaundice when it comes to this sort of thing: perhaps he should ring up.

"For your Information:

A couple of months back the Patient Participation Group at the Northenden Group Practice discussed an improvement to the appointment system and agreed unanimously on the improvement to take place from 1st May. Basically it is an improvement for those who need to speak to their doctor and don't necessarily need to visit the surgery. You call reception and indicate you want to speak to your doctor and your doctor will call back to speak to you. You may want only to speak to a particular doctor and reception will tell you which day they are in if they are

not already. At the group meeting patients were of the opinion that some patients really needed only to speak to a doctor they saw regularly. It was also expressed by the doctors' representatives that doctors in general like to maintain contact with the same patients as they were familiar with patient needs etc. However you can speak to any doctor on that day and not necessarily the one you normally see. These measures were believed to save doctors and patients time and some patients from unnecessary trips to the surgery: e.g. for a prescription renewal. All agreed it would be beneficial and its now in place. You can find confirmation of this new innovative idea on the Centre's website. <http://www.northenden-gp.com/#!new-appointment-system/c11kq> "

... notices that St. Wilfrid's Women's Group is having an introduction to Chi Kung in May. This sounds interesting. Should they all wear black belts to mark the occasion? He does not really know what Chi Kung is, but assumes it lies somewhere on a spectrum between Kung Fu and Origami.

... was saddened to see the edges of the paths on our Riverside Park, and the patches round notice boards and Hero the Heron and along the fences, had been doused in weedkiller in early April. Presumably this had been done by Council workmen or contractors ~ who had not been told that Council money had been spent and council workers' time expended in planting those areas, along with the efforts of so many local volunteers. Oh, well, now that they've saved £50K on our library they've got to find something to spend our money on. What, Magpie wonders, was the toxic chemical that was used, and did the council consult the Environment Agency before using it near a major watercourse and was a risk assessment carried out for its spraying near a children's play area? But don't worry. All this is surely part of the City's crusade to be the greenest city in Britain.

... has come across a leaflet prepared by the Rector suggesting the route of a walk through Northenden visiting places linked to Absalom and Sir Edward Watkin ~ from the river to the railway via Rose Hill. Copies are available in the church, and possibly at our ersatz library and elsewhere soon. Geoff Scargill, who prompted this effort, has found evidence of where that huge boulder at Rose Hill was hauled from. It was under a gatepost on Woodhouse Farm, Heyhead ~ now an Airport car park.

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.

May 4th 11.00am Holy Communion The Rev. Tim Nicholls
6.30pm United Evening Worship at Methodist Church

11th 9.00am Messy Church **
11.00am The Rev. Malcolm Purdy

18th 11.00am Mrs. Sarah Hooks

25th 11.00am Mrs. Joyce Curtis

June 1st 11.00am Details still to be arranged as we go to press

8th 9.00am Messy Church **
11.00am **Whit Sunday** ~ details to be announced
6.30pm **United Service at St. Wilfrid's NB.**

** Note that in May and June the Messy Church has moved to the second Sunday, to fit in with School holidays.

The united service in June has also been moved, to fit with other events or commitments in both churches.

Community Lunches

Wed. May. 14th . ~ 12 noon till 1.30pm

And then Wed. June 11th

(Details to be confirmed)

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

NORTHENDEN
Neighbourhood Forum.

The First Annual General Meeting of the Forum will be on 8th May, at St. Wilfrid's *School* Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Be there!

All residents in the Area, and all who work here, or are elected representatives, have a right to join, and take their part in shaping the future of our Neighbourhood. There are *no* fees or membership dues. It is funded, at least to start with, by Government Grants to cover its actual costs.

The Area concerned is roughly the triangle surrounded by the River, the M56 and the Parkway extension, excluding the Sharston Industrial Estate. Watch out as well for the Forum's website, now in preparation, and Facebook pages which are up and running.

The Annual Meeting, as well as electing a committee to serve for the next year, and establishing a Limited Company status, will discuss briefly what items and concerns people wish to see covered in the Neighbourhood Plan which is the major work of such Forums.

After this meeting, future meetings will take place at St. Wilfrid's *Church* Hall on the first Thursdays of the month.

Northenden Civic Society ...

... definitely continues in existence. Meetings are planned for Tues. May 13th and June 10th in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall. Its website is open - you can find it on www.northendencivicsociety.org

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.

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. This includes teaching sessions for children too.

- May 4th 10.30am Family Communion
6.30pm United Evening Worship at Methodist Church
- 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.

Thursday 29th **Ascension Day** Communion here at 10.00am
Deanery Service at St. Paul's Withington at 7.30pm (time tbc.)

- June 1st 10.30am Family Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship (to be confirmed ~ see below)
- 8th 10.30am **Pentecost / Whitsun.**
6.30pm **United Service at St. Wilfrid's NB.**

The united service in June has been moved, to fit with other events or commitments in both churches.

Scramblers, for 3½ to 6 year olds, and "**Sunday Club**" ~ for age 7 upwards ~ meet in the Church Hall unless there is a Family Service, between 10.30 and 11.30am Sundays. Contact details, 998-3304.

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! 

Farmers' & Street Markets, on Sat. 3rd May & 7th June 10am ...

Bible Studies in the Rectory at 8.00pm ~

Weds. 7th., 14th 21st May and 11th June. (NB the gap)

Mon. May 12th School Governors. 4.30pm.

Women's Group, Rectory, 7.45 for 8.00pm **NB date!**

The speaker is Peggy-Jane Rogers,
giving an introduction to Tai Chi and Chi Kung.

The date of the PCC meeting needs to be rearranged;
members will be contacted individually.

Christian Aid Week runs from 11th to 18th May.

Archdeacon's Visitation at St. Matthew's Stretford. Tues. 20th.

For sidesmen, wardens and PCC members, at 7.30pm.

There will be a Confirmation at Emmanuel Church, Didsbury,
on Sunday 1st June at 6.00pm.

(Our own evening service may be cancelled.)

Summer Fair Saturday June 7th, 11.00am till about 1.30pm

In the Church Hall ~ sales, food, and all the fun of the fair!

The next Women's Group meeting will be in July.

There is no meeting in June.

Registers ... 

In Memoriam;

Norman Russell (Yew Tree Lane) 89,

Brian Paul Hicks (Longley Lane) 44,

Georgina Craven (Ford La.) 86, Muriel Dickenson, 85,

Anthony Garnett (Mayfair Rd.) 63,

Jane (Durham) Knight (Cheadle) 63,

Baptised on Mothering Sunday, 30th March ...
Ruby May Teeling, Imogen Louise Davies.
Married, in the Parish Church ...

On 22nd March Jessica Emily Vyse to Damian Moore

On 5th April China Maudlin to Aaron Gihn Tsoi
Harvey

Christian Aid Week runs from 11th to 18th May. House to house collection will be limited this year, but envelopes will be available in our churches, and possibly in a few streets.

Planned Giving.

Many readers will already know that St. Wilfrid's runs a planned giving scheme. We invite those who want to support the church to give on a regular basis, using envelopes which are dated or numbered to each week in the year. You can then budget to put money aside each week, even if you only get to church less frequently, or are partly housebound. The church too can budget for a known income. If you wish to, and are paying tax, you can use the envelopes for gift-aided giving, in which we can claim back the tax you will have paid on what you give. To join in these schemes, have a word with the Rector, or the treasurer (Mrs. K. Morgan). For those who prefer something a bit more hi-tech, it is possible to give through a standing order at your bank ~ again contact the Rector or the treasurer.

In 2013 over £14,000 was raised in this way (thank you all), and we have payments of well over £2,000 due from the Tax-Man ~ which is a nice thought, don't you think!

St. Wilfrid's Annual Meeting *Greg Forster*

I am writing this far too soon to report on elections and decisions at the Church's AGM. What I can report is my own report! Part of it you have already seen, if you read what I said about Church Finances in Concord last month. That St. Wilfrid's ran at a deficit of about £10,000 last year, after all early and late payments have been taken into account. Income in the year was about £39,000, but outgoings were about £43,000, but insurance of over £5,000 had been paid early. So let me issue again that formal risk warning; that your church is in danger of defaulting on its bills ~ perhaps not this year or next, but not too long in the future. One reason for this is that we no longer have income

from the use of our Hall by the local authority for a lunch club or a youth club. Having said that, however, I want to thank everyone involved in giving or raising money for St. Wilfrid's.

Perhaps I need to emphasise again that apart from special grants for special projects (such as improving facilities used by the general community, not just the church) we do **not** get financial support from the government or the local authority, despite being the "established" church of England. Nor can the Church Commissioners' supposed millions bail out a parish church that runs into difficulties.

Thank you too to those who have been involved in running the church over the past year, and who have served on the PCC, brewed tea, boiled jam, guided visitors, painted walls, led groups, led parts of our worship, and helped in all the other ways which make St. Wilfrid's a welcoming and friendly place.

It is a diocesan requirement for me to confirm that we have a child protection policy, and that it has been applied during the year. We have one, and it has been applied, and those working with children have the requisite clearance, though it has not been possible to fit in completely with the diocesan scheme. The diocese has gone over to an outsourced computerised system, and will not issue the paper forms which make it possible to gather the information required to put on the computer for checking.

There have been discussions in the year about the possible future development of ordained ministry in Northenden and indeed in Wythenshawe as a whole. This has been prompted not by financial problems but by simple demography; more clergy are now retiring than are being ordained. The diocese is allocated its fair share of those available across the country, and has to share out staff fairly in turn, so as to maintain ministry in all its parishes. So the number of paid clergy posts in Manchester south of the Mersey will drop from the present seven to four or five by 2025.

The first thing to say after that is that there are no plans to close *churches*. The way in which they are staffed, and the kinds of worship conducted in them, may well have to change, but when the Archdeacon visited the Church Council recently he reassured us on this count. Morning prayer, for instance, may replace communion services every other Sunday in

some places ~ which will be less welcome in some churches other than St.Wilfrid's.

The archdeacon painted a number of possible pictures. The one we had been thinking of, some kind of twinning with Northen Moor, now seems less likely given that St.Martin's also became vacant during the year, and those two parishes see more in common than with us. So be it. What is now more likely is a partnership in which the Rector of Northenden is appointed to work part time here, and part time as an assistant minister in one of the neighbouring teams (which will also have lost clergy hours ~ so we are not being singled out for a special reduction.) There will be advantages in this too; when the Rector is on holiday, or even trying to get a day off, she will be able to call on the back-up of colleagues from that team as a matter of course in a way which I have not been able to.

So can I repeat my thanks to those of you who have joined in leading worship over the year ~ with a particular point to my thanks. You may well have to do this more in the future, and the more you do it, and the more of you who are willing and able to do it, the more this will be St.Wilfrid's church for the people of St.Wilfrid's.

Watch out ...

... over the first weekend of May

for lots of men and women in Bowler Hats.

There may even be a parade on the Sunday morning at about 11am from the Britannia Hotel. (The council are all for it, but the police have got cold feet.)

It's all in aid of a regular convention of enthusiasts for the famous comedy duo, Laurel and Hardy.

The main activities involve watching films and hearing talks, but as part of this the church tower will be open on Sunday 4th, from about 3.00 to 5.00pm, for interest's sake.
(and you don't have to wear a bowler hat to get in.)