

CONCORD ~ November 2010

Prayer for the Month ...

Almighty Father
whose will it is to restore all things
in your beloved Son., the king of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
and threatened by the over-consumption of the world's
goods,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
for he is alive
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen
based on a prayer for part of this month in "Common Worship"

**Northenden Rectory, Ford lane.
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Dear friends,

Welcome to November's Concord. If you notice a different appearance this month, ~ I don't know whether to apologise for it or not ~ that is simply because of a technical hitch with my usual printer. As a result it is a shorter edition than last month.

As is usual now, the annual Remembrance Day service is to be at Northenden Methodist Church on Sunday 14th. It is so much closer, of course, to our War Memorial, and so it is so much easier for some of the veterans to get from one to the other during the ceremonies. There will be a short service of remembrance and respect at the War Memorial after the main service in church ~ probably soon after 11.45am.

So, read on! Best wishes for November!

Yours sincerely, **Greg Forster**

St. Wilfrid's Church, Northenden.

Ford Lane, M22 4WE

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Services:

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

On Thursdays at 10am there will also be a communion service.

We run "Scramblers" ~ which I mustn't call a Sunday School ~ for children from 3½ to 7 ~ in the Church Hall, ...

... and "Sunday Club" ~ for children from 7 upwards ~ in the Rectory ... both between 10.30 and 11.30am Sundays ...
... unless there is a Family Service in church.

Nov.	7th	10.30am	Family Communion & Parade Service
		6.30pm	United Service at Methodist Church
	14th	10.30am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Evening Worship
	21st	10.30am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Evening Worship
	28th	10.30am	Morning Prayer
		6.30pm	Holy Communion
Dec.	5th	10.30am	Family Communion & Parade Service
		6.30pm	United Service at St. Wilfrid's

Drop in ...

On Sundays from 2.00pm until 5.00pm (or Dusk)
the church is open for private prayer, enquiries,
or simply to look around.

Dates for your Diary - *it's all happening*

Mon. 1st Nov. Women's Group. Rectory, 7.45 for 8.00pm
The Maldives - *last chance to see?*
(Ann Eustace & Celia Tiernant)

Wed. 3rd Bible Study. Rectory, 8.00pm

Sat. 6th NB the Farmers' Market. 10am - 4pm

On 10th & 11th Nov. Bishop Mark Davies is visiting the Deanery:
watch out for details of any events for us here. His programme is still
being finalised (as of 18th Oct.)

... Diary. continued. ...

Wed. 17th, 24th Bible Study, Rectory, 8.00pm

P.C.C meeting - date to be decided.

Mon. 22nd School Governors' Meeting, 6.00pm

Sat. 27th **Church Autumn Fair:** Church Hall, 11am - 2pm

See posters and fliers for details.

Wed. 1st Dec. Bible Study, Rectory, 8.00pm

Keep an eye - or an ear - open for the details of the annual concert of carols and folk music; Thurs. 2nd or 9th Dec. (to be confirmed)

Remember too the Farmers' Market on Sat. 4th

Mon. 6th 2.00pm St. Wilfrid's' School Cristingle in Church

7.00pm **Women's Group, Christmas "do". (NB time)**

The Church Carol Service will be on Sun. 19th Dec. at 3pm.

Parish Registers ...

Confirmed, on Sunday 17th October,

at Christ Church, W. Didsbury ...

Matthew James Rawcliffe, Esme Jane Overton.

Note that the next confirmation will be in June next year (probably Sunday 12th). Let the Rector know if you are considering being confirmed - or if you simply want to know what it involves.

In Memoriam ...

Herbert Ball (Church Rd.) 90.

Bags of Sunshine!

If you used to contribute towards the church by paying a forfeit whenever the sun shone ~ Morfydd Eglen's Sunshine Bag scheme ~ you can continue to do so. Gwyneth Lloyd has the bags, and will gladly receive your donations. And thanks!

Magpie ...

... mentioned last month the performances of *Singing in the Rain* being rehearsed in the Church Hall. They involve tap dancing, so don't be surprised at the metallic marks on the floor of the main hall. It's not dirt, it's work. The Shilo Theatre Company are putting it on, at the Royal Northern College of Music, Oxford Rd., (Studio Theatre) from Weds. 24th to Sat. 27th Nov, at 7.30pm. Tickets, £10 to £12 from their box office, 0161-907-5555.

... has heard a lot of Beavering around lately at St. Wilfrid's School. It's not surprising, really, because not only are there Cubs and Scouts meeting there on a Tuesday evening, but now also Beavers ~ the youngest variety of scouts ~ from 5.00 – 6.00pm. For more information, contact Barry Hall on Northendenbeavers @ gmail . com . Beaver-scouts are between 6 and 8 years old: Cub-scouts from 8 to 10, and Scouts proper from 10 – 14. The Rector has some more details.

... has found a new perch of late. You must all have seen it. You can hardly avoid it. It stands out like a sore thumb, on the corner of Palatine Rd. and Church Rd. After watching this space for he forgets how many years, Magpie is a bit shocked to see what is filling it. The developers promised us a four storey building (he seems to remember) and then mentioned as an kind of afterthought that there would be a small penthouse on top. The then ward councillors at the time greeted a enthusiastically (he seems to remember) and pushed for d as an iconic addition to Northenden's townscape. Well, icon, or eyesore, it seems that the "little penthouse is more than half as high again as the building it crowns! A number of people, including the Civic Society and the Rector, have questioned the city planners as to whether this is indeed the structure that received planning permission, and we await their response. Meanwhile the sore thumb remains, a one fingered salute to its neighbourhood, our council, and the city.

... and Magpie has now received confirmation that the building is in fact the height that the City Council approved. Hopefully it will find occupants more quickly than the white elephant built on the site of Royals, near the Altrincham Road roundabout. At least that does have adequate parking.

A Year of Paul

Over the past year we have been following a "Lectionary" or reading scheme at St. Wilfrid's based on the reading of a passage of St. John's gospel as the key lesson each Sunday (Officially we should have been reading Luke, but John gets officially sidelined

which is a shame.) Next year the official scheme takes us through Matthew's gospel. and I intend to stick more or less with that for the Gospel readings, but to focus on the so called "Epistle" readings when choosing themes for sermons. hymns. &c., and I plan to select a scheme of readings locally, highlighting the teaching and ministry of St. Paul. I know he sometimes gets bad press, wrongly, I think ~ but that is no excuse for ignoring his contribution to Scripture. Part of the problem is that older bible translations of his letters were rather laboured. I hope we can get round that too. So roll up for a year of Paul. Much of what he wrote was in answer to specific issues that came up in the early church, and many of those issues are still around, even if they take rather different shapes. and so are still relevant The church's year begins, of course. with Advent Sunday 28th November, so the new scheme will begin then.

Welcome ! - *The Ven. Gideon Ilechukwu.*

People worshipping at St. Wilfrid's over the past few months will perhaps have met Gideon Ilechukwu. He comes from South Eastern Nigeria. and is here as a medical doctor with his wife Choma (also a doctor) and family, working in Wythenshawe and other hospitals as a paediatrician. He is also an ordained Anglican minister. and worked in churches associated with hospital campuses in Enugu, and latterly as an archdeacon for missions in Awgu/Aninri diocese, in parallel with his medical work.

We are currently negotiating with the Archbishop of York to arrange for him to be authorised to work as a priest here preaching and leading services (as he did during a spell over in Dublin last year.) I had hoped that this might have been in place already, but for various very good reasons there have been delays. Meanwhile Gideon will be taking a more limited part in services until authorisation comes through. I am very happy to welcome him and the whole family here, and look forward to working more with him.

Greg Forster

In Transition?

Greg Forster

Some of you will know that the Civic Society's "Village Plan" of 2009 suggested among other things that Northenden might take on a role of "Transition Village" - a community which

is *trying* to move away from dependence on oil and oil based products, in the realisation that oil is not only harmful to the environment (global warming') but is also likely to become more and more expensive as supplied become more awkward to extract.

In connection with this the Society showed a film in October which explored our (or at least America's) love affair with oil and its consequences. and then discussed alternatives. I found it rather frustrating. It spent rather too much time pointing out the drawbacks of oil, much of which could have been cut shorter, it did not do justice to the aims of alternatives, and failed to develop how a "transition community" might work in an adequate way. In particular, since it was contrasting *American* suburbia with its sprawl of bungalows in expansive grounds with a more concentrated urban model, it offered as a radical new development something which looked remarkably like Northenden or Didsbury already (though we perhaps need to increase allotment use, and develop local jobs).

But the point remains. Our society - our city with its self-declared dream of being a "regional centre" for people commuting from five counties round is not sustainable and not economic if oil and oil based transport in private cars remains at the heart of our way of life.

Yet I am only too well aware that for all my cycling, I depend on a car for much of what I do. Tomorrow's meeting in Oldham will be awkward if I have to cycle to it! Nevertheless, we should not ignore all this: water-power and solar panels should be on our agendas. Walking should replace the school run. ... There is a slogan, *Think globally, but act locally*. For most of us that is the first, if not the only step - the only action - we can take.

Christmas is coming !

Don't remind me! (Or, perhaps, do.) Seriously. one of the things we have been doing for recent Christmases at St. Wilfrid's has been to collect warm clothing. blankets, and easy food (like cup a-soups for Manchester's street people in this cold time of year. *Once we inc into December* I shall be happy to accept gifts of this kind, new or good-as-new (though good as new soup sounds a bit off!) for this purpose.

And in the mean time, thank you for the similar gifts you gave for Harvest. They have been taken to the Booth Centre - the cathedral's drop in for these people - and are much appreciated.

REMEMBER!

November is a time when there are a lot of official, social, formal, acts of remembrance. The bonfires of the 5th hark back to a foiled terrorist plot (if not beyond). The silences of 11th, and this year the 14th. remind us of the losses of war. For those who realise it the parties at Halloween, and the observances of All Saints' and All Souls' days, are a remembrance too, of all God's hallowed people down the ages, and our own share with them.

In fact, Christians are into remembering a lot of the time. Our most frequent act of worship is a remembering: "Do this in remembrance of me," said Jesus as he broke bread the last time and poured out wine for his friends and followers. It is not a meal that we remember either, but a death; his own death on the cross on the next day - Good Friday. Our Christian faith and our Christian hope centres around that, and his resurrection which followed. We remember how we so often fail ourselves, our friends and families, and him, in the errors we make, the wrongs we do, or the relationships we hurt. We remember his welcome and forgiveness even for those who hurt him, and for ourselves in our turn. We remember how his death on that cross, within God's scheme of things, makes amends for those wrongs. We remember his new life, and in eating and drinking we live out a prayer that his life will shape ours, both now and into eternity.