

CONCORD ~ November 2013

Prayer for the Month

Sovereign Lord, king of the universe,
how blessed you are, for in you all life has being,
and in the midst of death we are in life.
How blessed you are, for in your remembrance we are
remembered, and though we walk in the shadow of death
we need fear no evil.
How blessed you are, for in your light we see light,
and from you comes our hope of life beyond life.
Sovereign Lord, king of the universe,
how blessed you are in all time and eternity. Amen.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.
0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

Welcome again to Concord ~ for November.

November is now, traditionally, a time for Remembrance and I notice that even families with no military connection will leave tokens on graves in the churchyard around 11th. It used to be on Nov. 1st or 2nd ~ All Hallows' or All Souls' days ~ that people remembered their departed loved ones, but that is rather hi-jacked by Halloween now. The prayer above reflects on all this. It is because of God's reality and vitality that we can hope for a reality and existence beyond the material world that we know so easily. The death and ongoing life of Jesus fixes that promise for us, as we come to love and trust him. Sure of his love we can remember with thanksgiving those who have died in his love, and be grateful for what they have meant to us in our lives. Sure of his forgiveness promised to those who turn to him for it we can be sure of his welcome and acceptance both here in time, and beyond in eternity as we look forward to what he called resurrection; not just a shadowy continuation somewhere, but a solid, more than bodily reality in his presence. There we shall be known, and so shall know.

I did not plan to say much about Halloween, but having raised that spectre, I suppose I ought to lay it. As I have written in previous years, it is the eve of the festival of All Hallows (or Saints) and so a part of that celebration. It is not All Ghouls or All

Spooks! So by all means have a celebration, and your fancy dress should be angel wings, or haloes, white robes, not black shrouds, and put the pumpkin in the soup, not on your head! Thank God the redeemer for life beyond death ~ and if your thoughts do turn to the macabre and the hideous, pray that God will overcome evil with good in how we live, and will frustrate the ordinary evils that men do, ... in war and crime and thoughtless selfishness.

I am anticipating that the Remembrance Day events will focus this year (as has become normal) on the Methodist Church, with the Parade Service starting at 10.45am to allow for The Silence at 11.00. It may be standing room only in the new sanctuary! Whatever happens, I am expecting to be at the War Memorial myself some time before noon for the public Silence and wreath-laying. This is being better organised this year, I gather, with more audible sound systems laid on, and a printed order of service. It is something which has grown in recent years, perhaps as we are more aware of the sacrifice of war because of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Thank you for the gifts which were brought to church for harvest. I have sent £60 to Christian Aid from envelopes, and taken many boxes and bags of soups, &c. to the Booth Centre at the Cathedral, where Manchester's street people can get support. Many thanks to all who have contributed.

Sue reminds me that even now it is time to start thinking about Christmas and Christmas presents, and that we will as usual be again collecting tins of biscuits, cup-of-soups, warm clothes and toiletries for these street people. Anything you can spare will be gratefully received, and a box will be put at the back of St. Wilfrid's church for these *after the Church Fair*. (Before then, there is a box for fair-goods.),

Briefly, for St. Wilfrid's members and friends, note that our Family Service in December is a week later than you might expect, and that we hope that our School Choir will be involved. Also advance notice for St. Wilfrid's ~ the time of our Carol Service this year has been changed. The Church Council suggested that we should have it as a joint service with the Nigerian "Restoration Church" congregation, and to fit in with some of them, who will be travelling from Liverpool or Sheffield and are mindful of the early dusk, it will start at 1.00pm not later as has been usual. Our 10.30am service may be modified that day too. **Greg Forster**

Well, hello God, me again ...

It's the future. Will there be any left for me?
 To hear some people talk everything ought to get better and better
 and they start grumbling if the costs go up.
 But I can't see it.

For a start, there's more and more of us,
 and if more and more of us want more and more
 when there already isn't enough to go round,
 well, the costs will go up, won't they?
 And things won't get better and better, will they?

Sorry to bother you about this, and all that,
 but what would you do?
 I know you're supposed to have put us in charge,
 but was that wise?

People have a knack of messing things up.
 Surely you knew that.

We won't admit there's a problem in case it upsets someone,
 the people in charge keep on promising better times,
 and then what they do only looks a few years ahead.
 I'll be around longer than that ~ I hope!

So what would you do?
 Would you flood us all out again?
 That might make us realise the ice was melting,
 and how special water is.
 That would teach us a lesson, and no mistake.
 But do you think people would listen?

What if we could go on getting more comfortable
 without using up any more stuff,
 somehow recycling everything?
 Yes, I know, that would take a miracle.

What was that? Oh, of course, "*Miracles a speciality*",
 But can you really see grown-ups buying that?
 Even just not getting any better won't go down well.

So, what would you do? ... what was that?
 What are we going to do? Now you're asking.

Honest!

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.

- Nov. 3rd # 9.00am Messy Church #
11.00am Bob Bartindale
6.30pm The Rev. Tim Nicholls (United Service)
- 10th **10.45am** Remembrance Day Parade Service.
Earlier, to allow for the Silence,
followed by the wreath laying at the war memorial.
- 17th 11.00am John Harrison
- 24th 11.00am Margaret Parker
- Dec. 1st 9.00am Messy Church
11.00am Morning Worship §
6.30pm United Service at St.Wilfrid's
- 8th 11.00am Morning Worship §

§ Sorry, details of December's Preachers are not yet available.

Community Lunches

Wed., ~ 13th November, 12 noon till 1.30pm

(Next lunch, Wed. Dec. 11th ~ 12 noon till 1.30pm ...

Special Christmas arrangements 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 Civic Society

Northenden Civic Society **website** is now open - you can find it on < www.northendencivicsociety.org >. Our Civic Society *Facebook* is also open: www.facebook.com/NorthendenCivicSociety You can also find a *Facebook* link from the website. And for a more personal encounter with the society, there is a meeting every second Tuesday in a month, in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall, at 7.30pm.

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Northenden Library again.

GSF

The Library is billed to close on Nov. 8th, with the new arrangements at Parkway Green offices beginning on Nov. 18th. The hours are curtailed to 15 hours per week, during office hours (to suit Parkway Green), but I do not have the precise times to hand ~ not at evenings or week-ends.

And it was suggested to the City Council that one way of spending its £14.5 million windfall from the Airport would be to

retain its Libraries as they were. Their response ~ that it is already earmarked for keeping the City "clean and green." I emailed Sir Richard Leese about this (as no doubt did many others) and have had a reply, describing in detail the cuts imposed on the City. He conveniently blames the present Government for that (equally conveniently forgetting the previous Government's over-spending). He then asserts that a mere £14.5M cannot fill the gap, so whatever it goes on must be sustainable when it runs out. I fail to follow the logic of that argument. And I fail to follow why something which is clean and green will be more sustainable than a library. After this money is all gone people will still drop litter, and the grass will still grow.

Sir Richard adds that he is sure the community-based solution for Northenden library supported by other libraries not too far away will work well. I wish I were more sure that the proposal were actually community based, and were a solution. Here's hoping!

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78 Church Rd., Northenden

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HS2 *I had hoped to arrange a meeting in Northenden at which the details and implications of the routing of the proposed High Speed trains unto Manchester under the village would be explained and discussed. This has not happened, but times and venues for the general information sessions relevant to us are in Bowdon on Sat. 23rd Nov, 10am – 5pm, (venue given as "The Grammar", Marlborough Rd) and then, later, at Wythenshawe Forum on Thurs. 9th Jan (noon till 8pm) and in Manchester Town Hall on Friday and Saturday 10th & 11th Jan. **GSF***

Magpie saw this outside a second hand shop; ...

"We exchange anything – bicycles, washing machines, &c. ... Why not bring your wife in and get a wonderful bargain?"

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.

“**Sunday Club**” ~ for children from 7 upwards ~ meets in the Rectory, both between 10.30 and 11.30am Sundays except when there is a Family Service in church (Nov. 3rd, Dec. 8th, &c.)

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.

3rd Nov. 10.30am Family Communion & Parade
6.30pm United Evening Worship **at Methodists'**

10th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

Please note that the Remembrance Day service will be at the Methodist Church, as is now normal, starting at 10.45am, to facilitate easy access to the wreath-laying at the War Memorial at 11.45 – 12 noon approx.

17th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

Note too the Nigerian Harvest Festival Celebration at 12.30pm

24th 10.30am Morning Prayer
6.30pm Holy Communion

1st Dec. 10.30am Holy Communion (“**Standard**”)
6.30pm United Evening Worship at St. Wilfrid's

8th 10.30am **Family Communion & Parade ...**
... with St. Wilfrid's School Choir.

6.30pm Evening Worship.

Drop in on St. Wilfrid's ...
On Sundays from 2.30 till 5.00pm (or dusk)
the church is open
for private prayer, for enquiries, or just to look around.
 To visit at other times, please contact the Rector.

The Parish Registers -

In Memoriam ...



Arthur Edwards (91), George Carson (75) Lovett Walk,
 Vera Mayor (Carron House), Kenneth McGrath.

Baptisms; on Sun. 20th October ...
 Hayley Louise Molloy and Sonny Benjamin Sinclair
 Dates for your Diary ~ it's all

happening!



Note the Farmers' Market on Sat. 2nd Nov.

Also on 2nd Nov., in the afternoon a team of bell-ringers is hoping to ring a quarter peal. This may mean a noisy but sonorous weekend, since another team may be ringing a quarter prior to a funeral on Friday the 1st., though details have yet to be sorted out.

Mon. 4th Nov. 7.45 for 8.00pm Women's Group. (+ video)
 A trip to Iceland ~ Anne Eustace with Celia Ternant.

Weds 6th & 13th Bible Studies at Rectory, 8.00pm.

Thurs. 14th PCC meeting, 7.30pm. Church Hall

Tues. 19th Deanery Synod meeting at St. Nicholas', Burnage.

**But on Wed. 20th ~ a Concert, by the Palatine Wind Quintet
 In Church, at 7.30pm. ~ don't miss it!**

Mon. 25th 4.30pm School Governors.

Wed. 27th Bible Study Rectory 8.00pm.

Sat. 30th Church Fair in the Hall. 11.00am – 1.30pm
With the usual stalls, and food ~
Come along, and bring your friends.

Mon. 2nd Dec. Women's Group Christmas Do 7.00pm

Wed. 4th Dec. Bible Study in the Rectory, 8.00pm (but not 11th)

Note the Farmers' Market, with additions and celebrations
including a lights' switch-on, on Sat. 7th Dec.

Watch this space for a Christmas Folk & Carol Concert, date still to be arranged. The School Cringle will be on 12th Dec at 2.00pm.

Christmas Programme.

Advance warning of what is changed
as well as what is usual.

Sat. 30th Nov. "Christmas" Fair ~ 11am till 1.30pm. inc. food.

And note the two following changes ...

Sun. 8th Dec **Family Service with School Choir;** early Christmas

NB. Sun. 22nd Carol Service at 1.00pm ~ NB.
 a joint service with the Nigerian Congregation.

But as usual ...

School Christmas Service on Thurs 19th, ca. 9.15am

Christmas Eve 11.30pm "Midnight" Communion.

Christmas Day 8.00am Holy Communion
 10.30am Family Communion & Carols.

Magpie ...

... has noticed our two electric car charging points, next to the Dell on Greenpark Rd. Northenden is up with the Green times. HalleluJah!

... heard of a school where the year 7 children (12 year olds) were given the task in RE of creating a poster to express whether they believed in God or not. This was probably intended to get them talking and thinking in a lesson in which they might be inclined to be stroppy, but it's a bit of a tall order. How would you do it? If there were Muslims in the class, what would they think about it, given that they are not now supposed to create an image

of God? Magpie had two or three ideas; one was an outright challenge to the doubters ~ a Crucifixion or a Nativity scene. The other takes a leaf out of the Richard Dawkins anti-religion school and their poster campaign a year or so ago, with a slogan like this: Relax, the odds for Richard Dawkins existing are one in 5,000,000,000,000,000,000 ... 000,000,000,000,000,000, ...
... think about it.

... wonders whether you saw the publicity from Metrolink suggesting that they will be finished with the most obstructive work on Wythenshawe's road junctions by Easter. Let's hope so. At present any journey south or West of Northenden can become a magical, or even hellish, mystery tour, and Chorlton is not much better. But get to Didsbury and you can go straight to Rochdale, via Oldham (well, perhaps there will be a few twists and turns).
Heaven?

... the Rector has been playing with flags again. So much so that he has forgotten half of what he has done with them! Someone asked about the blue one, flying half mast on September 16th. You all know that, don't you? Yes, it was the Scottish Saltire, though the one the church has is a bit paler than usual. And the reason? The 500th anniversary of the battle of Flodden Field, when the Scots lost a king and half their nobility, and half their army too as they invaded England in support of France. And they call it Merrie England, and the good old days! A week or so later the Nigerian green and white flag was flying, as our Nigerian Church held their Autumn Convention, and then celebrated independence day on Oct. 1st. Later that week St.Wilfrid's School came to the church for their harvest service, and a new flag was flying ~ yellow with a green roundel of a mediaeval ship ~ that is the school's own device, as parents and grandparents will know. And finally, on the week-end of St.Wilfrid's day the flag was of masculles gules on a field or. That's red hollow diamonds on a yellow background to the likes of us ~ the device linked with St.Wilfrid at his cathedral of Ripon, though he himself probably never heard of it. What next?

"Will Aid." ~ a reminder.

As I wrote in October, watch out this month for the opportunity that some Solicitors are offering of writing a simple Will, or advising if it is more complex, for free, in return for a donation to a Charity.

Writing a will is a good idea anyway, even if you reckon you don't have much. It simplifies matters for your next of kin, and lets them know where you really want your stuff to go. That might save an argument or two! And if you had more than you thought (houses have gone up!) the government wouldn't get the top-slice.

Two suggestions:

think in terms of percentages of the estate, so that the favourite niece you thought was getting the bulk does not end up with a relatively small fixed sum, while the residual legatees you barely saw get the lion's share;

and if you have a favourite charity or two, leave them something, but not just a token. Some solicitors might try to suggest just a token gesture ~ a mere £100, say ~ when it really means more to you than that.

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NORTHENDEN

Neighbourhood Forum

After the meeting in late August that was reported last issue, a formal request for the Forum to be constituted was put to the council. In early October, four days before the council meeting that was due to consider it, the council officers published their response, suggesting a much reduced and emasculated area, excluding the Industrial Estate at Sharston, and complaining that it might involve the councillors of a different ward. One objection was that it might introduce an extra layer of democracy! The Forum committee asked for consideration to be deferred, while a proper response to this was prepared, and this was allowed, so early in November the Council's Neighbourhood Scrutiny

committee will scrutinise the application and advise on the full Council's formal response.

Tuesday Tots ~ a mother & toddler group meeting in St. Wilfrid's hall between 9.15 and 11.15am. £1.50 + 50p per extra child. Coffee, cake, and a civilised chat; toys and activities.

Long time ago, in Nazareth ...

to be continued ...

"We need to talk, Joe."

"Does it have to be now, Ann? You know I've got our Seph coming round to talk about the marriage."

"Yes, Joe, I know. That's why we need to talk. Before he comes, Joe. It's about our Miriam, see. You know she's not seemed so well lately, and a bit withdrawn. The mornings 've been lying heavy on her, see. Haven't they?"

"Can't say as how I've noticed, really, but now you mention it"

"Oh, you men! You wouldn't notice an earthquake, ... but I've seen, and I tackled her about it. You won't like this. It's been the morning sickness, Joe. I think she goes with child."

"What did you say? It can't be. That's not the way I brought her up. Such things are not done in Israel!"

"That's not how I brought her up either, Joe, but such things do happen, as well you ought to know."

"But they'll slay her. The little minx! What are you going to do? She mustn't stay here. And Seph? What'll he say? He'll call it off, he's bound to. You know how he's such a stickler for the Law. Ever since he came here I've seen that, and now his father's dead he's even more a law-keeper. But, ... it couldn't be him, could it? I mean, you've never left her alone with him, have you?"

"Yes, Joe. *Our* daughter. What are *we* going to do? At least it's Seph on his own we'll have to talk to, and not the whole family. And no, they haven't been alone together. Not that I know, and I think we would. But she's already thought of that herself. You know cousin Beth, her as married the priest up in Judah? Well she's six months gone, so our Miriam says, and she'll go and see her."

"Six months gone? You must be joking. She's our age, and barren too. Anyway, how does Miriam know?"

"That's the strange thing, Joe. She seems more worried for us than for herself. She says that's why she's been quieter than usual, wondering how we would take it. She says she had a message ~ a messenger, rather ~ who told her how it would happen."

"What? A messenger from your Beth, and old Zacchary?"

"No, Joe. A *Messenger*, an angel. A messenger from the Almighty. He said she was very blessed, she says. He said that a power from on high would overshadow her, she says. She said she was the Lord's servant, she says, and he said that our Beth was expecting, and would understand."

"Your Beth might, but I don't. You don't believe that story, do you? Seph won't. It's sacrilege. Oh, God, what are we going to do?"