

CONCORD ~ *November 2014*

Prayer for the Month, for remembrance

Loving heavenly Father,
who know the hearts and hurts of humankind;
breathe the gentle Spirit of your healing power
into the minds of those scarred by the horror of war,
the loneliness of human loss,
and the hatred that springs from vengeance.
May they find in you the peace that is beyond their
understanding, the forgiveness which sweetens their bitterness,
and the comfort of your presence;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Prince of peace. Amen.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.

0161 **998 2615**

Dear Friends,

Apologies for the error in last month's Concord ~ which boldly proclaimed at the head of the first page ~ this one ~ that it was for July! No one has commented. Did anyone notice?

Over the past few months I have been helping to edit a booklet by some friends of mine on Climate Change, or rather the moral dilemmas thrown up by people who deny the human element in its cause, or argue that we can't do anything about it anyway. I touched on this last month, in connection with Harvest Festival, and not, I think, for the first time in Concord.

The science is clear enough that a significant part of the changes which have been recorded in global temperatures and climate behaviour is down to human activity, not least the use of carbon-based fossil fuels. It is possible to argue about some of the details, but the basic stuff is clear enough, as is the so called precautionary principle.

In other words, all this probably has a human cause. We can change at least some of what we humans do to cause it. And it is likely that disasters will follow or get worse if we do nothing ~ flooding, storms, droughts, famine, extinctions, &c. It would be stupid and inexcusable not to take the precaution of reducing what we can of what we do to cause the problem. It would be like not taking your Wellington boots when you visit a flood zone.

It is therefore sad to read that the previous Government Climate Change Secretary, Owen Patterson, (you know, he who forgot his boots last winter when he visited the Somerset floods) has set up a think tank/campaign group to argue that we should do nothing unless the Chinese do it too (in fact they are starting to) because it would be bad for our economy, and that we should use shale gas (fracking ~ and a carbon based fossil fuel) rather than wind farms, because the wind does not always blow.

OK, that is simplified. I agree that the wind does not always blow, which is one reason why I am keen on water power, solar panels, and ground-heat (like the cathedral's new system), but I also believe the development of these forms of energy would actually boost our economy, and that the cost to that economy of all those disasters I mentioned earlier would be even greater. So how would you react to a hydro-electric power plant on our weir, or solar panels on our schools, or even four unobtrusive wind turbines on the church tower? Serious? Ask me for details!

Can I thank everyone from Church or School who contributed to our harvest services and collection. Some of the goods have been parcelled up for use during the year for people who call at my door in difficulties over buying food. We do not have a formal Food Bank ~ there is one in Wythenshawe and one in West Didsbury ~ but some emergency food is available here.

Some of the food, particularly soups and other easy-to-prepare items, have already been taken to the Booth Centre, in town. This caters for the street people of the city, and is well used. It has recently moved from one of the cellars/undercrofts of the Cathedral to a more extensive and suitable premises off Cheetham Hill Rd., near the CIS tower. When I dropped these items off the hall, as big as our church hall main room, was full.

And can I particularly thank the manager at Morrisons, in the village, who redirected a fairly large stock of tins and chocolates, which were from lines which had been discontinued, towards our harvest and relief stocks. Many thanks ~ and the goods are already being appreciated.

We are (at last) hearing a lot about the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa (possibly because it has broken out of West Africa to affect a few people in Europe and the U.S.) It is serious ~ don't get me wrong ~ not least because it is so lethal. But it

partly seems so terrible because we are used to dealing with illnesses fairly easily with a drug of some sort. Please God they will come up with an appropriate drug of some sort soon, and that should be a feature of our prayers about this whole situation ~ but it is not the first time humanity has been threatened by epidemics or indeed pandemics. In researching First World War I have come across some evidence of the Spanish Flu pandemic which took 11 million lives in 1918 & -19. In the churchyard too are graves of whole families who died within weeks, presumably from diphtheria or one of the other pre-antibiotic scourges. That does not make it all right, but it should remind us how blessed we are by the NHS and the benefits of modern medicine.

But in practical terms, how should we react if it were to become an issue in Britain? In Liberia, we are told, people have stopped shaking hands. Who can blame them? Do you remember a few years ago everyone got windy about bird-flu? The church issued some guidance then, particularly in connection with taking the wine at communion, and about sick-visiting. Some of that would still be applicable, and I might, for instance, follow the lead of our Nigerian congregation, who have begun using individual cups for each communicant. They introduced this early on in the outbreak, when there were a number of Ebola cases in Nigeria. Nigeria is now deemed Ebola-free, thank God, largely due to some prompt and very sacrificial actions by medical staff there, who chose to isolate themselves once they recognised the disease.

We are drawing near the Christmas season (already!) which prompts me to mention what is now a regular appeal ~ for soups and other easy to prepare items which can be passed on to the Booth Centre for the benefit of rough sleepers, and also for blankets, pullovers or the like for them too. Don't bring anything yet (or it might get confused with Christmas Fair goods) but have it ready for early December.

But now read on.

Greg Forster

Magpie ...

... was alarmed last month to hear that the builders who were working on the **Camperlands** site near the river have gone bankrupt. It was not, however, the developers who went broke, and negotiations with a new contractor are at an advance

stage, he understands, so the job should proceed again soon. The delay will be about three months on what was planned.

... nearby, as reported last month also, the saga of the **Tatton Arms** continues. The owner has eventually tidied up the site, and should be painting the boards on the windows so that it looks a bit neater there too. He has also engaged architects to come up with practical solutions for the site and building. A few months ago in Concord readers were invited to comment on the idea of putting some buildings on the gardens, in order to cover the losses that would accrue if the present building were converted into flats as it stands. No-one responded. So Magpie will have another go. What if the present building were demolished, and a look-alike, modern block of flats put in its place? That would be a financial goer. Or what if the present building were renovated and 9 flats built into its shell (in the same way the shell of the Church Inn is being used) and the shortfall on their sale value was met by building 16 houses in its grounds? Answers, writing on one side of the paper at once, to the Rector, who will pass them on to Magpie and anyone else who has an interest in this. People with other ideas would need a seven figure sum in their back pockets, plus annual running costs. Just to renovate the present building as flats would be a non-starter financially, it seems. The flies in the ointment (or is it the jewels in the crown?) are that this is both greenbelt land and part of the conservation area, but that the window of opportunity (financially) is alleged to be about 5 years, and structurally perhaps half that.

... flew past the other ongoing saga in Northenden in the middle of October, and saw the after effects of a fire. Apparently one night four fire engines were called to the building variously known as The Monster, The Green Dalek, Orthanc Tower, or **No.1 Church Rd**. Some of the timber shuttering on the ground floor, and the decking above the overhang where the public bench and rubbish bin used to be, caught fire. Some windows were cracked, and many more blackened; the decking is burned away or hacked out, so that he could see into the building; what more damage has occurred he cannot see or say. Will this delay the work of getting the place finished and occupied or will it be an added incentive to get it into use? From above, from Magpie's haunts around the church tower, it looks as if the

new line of the roof is complete, but more work is being done to break up the harsh lines of the plain walls of the topmost storeys.

... meanwhile, work at the **Church Inn** site progresses apace ~ with the roofs on some of the new properties. If the delays at the Tatton had to do with whether the windows should be painted, and what colour, the shuttering at the Church must be some of the best painted in Manchester ~ two or three coats, in black and pink ~ the Rector's old college rugby colours. Now that's class for you!

... and the Rector has provided some more titbits of news; over the summer the **highest temperature** in the Rectory garden was 46° Celsius ~ admittedly in direct sunlight on a black window frame. Since last May the lowest temperature there has been recorded as 3°, in the last couple of weeks, but by and large, how warm it has been! No complaints, I hope!

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

"We will remember them" 1914-1919 ~ G.S.F.

We continue the series of pieces about people remembered in the church or churchyard who were caught up in World War 1. This month ~ November ~ it seems right to jump ahead and report reactions to the Armistice of November 1918.

PEACE, BE STILL. November 11th, 1918.

There is obvious relief in the December 1918 issue of the Northenden Parish Magazine at the end of conflict. There seems also almost as much surprise as in August 1914 at the suddenness of the German collapse and the coming of peace. But there is also the sadness of more names added to the roll of honour in the last days of the war. The poignancy is made worse

in that two of them had joined up in 1914, and had survived wounds to go back to the front. Signaller Harold Wilson had served in Italy and France, but it was on the very morning of the armistice that his parents received the news of his death in action ~ on 25th October.

The same article records the death of Lt. Samuel. Watts, who had been home on leave and was returning to the front for the sixth time. He had been adjutant, and an intelligence officer, with the Manchester Regt. from soon after the beginning of hostilities, and had been twice wounded. He died, suddenly and unexpectedly in London, from pneumonia. The Northenden Parish war memorial records his rank as Captain.

He is one of a number of similar deaths in 1918 and 1919, which we would probably now associate with the outbreak of "Spanish Flu" in the closing months of the war and early days of the peace ~ though there is no hint in the magazine that the outbreak was thought of as special at the time. Nevertheless, we are told that it took more lives across Europe than the actual fighting. Here, Nurse Scott had only recently taken up the job of district nurse in the parish, it would seem, and is described as "a young life". Her death is called a great loss to the parish, and she "died at her post" in April 1919. She was buried at Wilmslow.

The Chandley family were closely linked to Northenden, and Henry was the Rector's driver, gardener, and probably much else. His daughter Annie's memories have contributed to these articles too. But in the same issue as Nurse Scott's death is reported, Samuel Chandley's death is also recorded, "after a brief, and totally unexpected, illness" on 3rd April. He had been a long serving sailor in the Royal Navy as a senior Petty Officer, and was coming up to retirement.

And in that issue too there is discussion of how the fallen were to be commemorated. A meeting of the parishioners in March had agreed with a (civil) Parish Council suggestion that the war memorial should take the form of a Recreation Ground for the children of Northenden. Ten days later another meeting agreed with a further suggestion of a memorial, independent of the (civil) Parish memorial, in the church consisting of a brass or marble tablet, listing the names of the 64 or 65 men from Northenden who had made the supreme sacrifice. A committee

was set up to implement this, and the result of their work is still there for all to see at the rear of the south aisle. The same article suggests that there were moves for the public memorial to be a visible structure. That was how things developed, as we know, though I cannot find any record in the magazine of how and why *that* decision was made rather than the earlier idea of a Recreation Park. It is that memorial which was the focus of last August's remembrance events ~ the service on Sun. 3rd Aug at 12.30pm, and the candle-lit vigil at the hour when war was declared, 10pm on Mon. 4th ~ as it will be for the Nov. 9th act of Remembrance.

**The Rector's booklet, *We Will Remember Them*, is available from the Church. It prints these articles from Concord, with more information and colour photographs.
Price (revised edition) £2.00**

Churchyard Records:

The following lists the burials and memorial inscriptions in our churchyard. Weather permitting these graves will be cut and tidied for Nov. 9th / 11th this year, as we always intend. The numbers refer to the Grave index and map, which will be accessible on Sunday afternoons during early November.

B424 ... Also Corpl. John William Leigh, Killed in Action in France, August 22nd, 1917 aged 32 years. "Greater love hath no man than this". Other church records add 'Royal Engineers.'

B477 ... Edward William [Dean] their dear son killed in action in France, 19th May 1918, aged 20 years.

B 476 There is no stone, but the Grave index records a J. Hulme "buried in France" in connection with this grave, with the date 1917. Cards of honour show a Joseph Hulme, Pte., Manchester Regt., killed in Action in France, March 1916.

The War Graves Commission website records J. Hulme, born Didsbury, c. 1877, aged 39, resident in Northenden, died of wounds 11/3/1916 buried in the Communal Cemetery (i.e. belonging to the commune) at Corbie, in Somme Dept., E. of Amiens.

B503 ... Also of his son, Lieut. Ernest William [Guest], The King's Own Regiment of R.F.C., Killed in Action in France, February 26th 1918, aged 36 years.

B570 ... 52103 Private J. Renshaw, Cheshire Regiment. 29th June 1917. (*War Graves Commission stone*)

B577 Worsley family grave inscription, v. badly weathered;
... Also Pte. John E. Worsley, son of the above, who died at
Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, April 18th 1918 aged 21 years.
War Graves Commission stone added c.1990

B579 ... In loving memory of Alfred De Courcy Meade, M.C., Major,
Royal Engineers who died as a result of an accident on active service,
December 14th 1918, aged 34 years.

B592 ... Lieut. David C. Cooper, R.A.F. Killed whilst flying on 9th May
1919, aged 20 years.

C6 ... Also Lce. Corp. Walter Brown, beloved son of the above. Killed
in Action December 27th 1915 aged 23 years.

C13 ... In loving memory of my dear husband, Percy Joseph Higgins,
Lieut., Royal Garrison Artillery, who died February 18th 1920 as a
result of sickness contracted on active service, aged 33 years. "Into
thy hands, O Lord."

C145 ... Sacred to the memory of John Henry Code, D.C.M., who fell
asleep February 27th 1934 aged 65 years.

Also his dearly loved son, 2nd Lt. Harold Code, killed in France
August 25th 1918, aged 21 years.

D78 ... Also of Pte. Frank Crumley, Killed in Action 5th Sept. 1918,
aged 29 years.

E156 ... Also James William Ashpital, 13th Battalion Cheshire Regiment,
Killed in Action at Ypres, June 15th 1917 aged 19 years.
Signaller

E196 ... 114183 Gunner F. A. Tyrer, Royal Garrison Artillery 29th April
1918 age 32 *War Graves Commission stone*

E208 ... Also Pte. J. H. Wright, son of above, killed in action March
27th 1918, aged 20 years.

E211 ... Also their beloved son George Littleton Wrightson, drowned
at sea March 27th 1918 aged 19 years.

Royal Navy, according to the Parish Roll of Honour

E243 ... Also George, son-in-law of the above, beloved husband of Lily
Cliffe. Died of wounds in France, April 6th 1918 aged 24 years. Sadly
Missed.

F 1 ... Also Arthur [Davies] their beloved son, who died in France,
March 24th 1918 aged 19 years.

F 3 ... Also her husband William [Lovesey] who died in France, April
1918. Also William (Bill) Lovesey their son who died in Sumatra,
January 1945.

F132 ... 9199 Corporal S. Bethell, Cheshire Regiment, 8th December 1917, aged 22. *War Graves Commission stone*

F148 ... Also their son Gunner Arthur Massey, R.F.A., killed in action at Monchy-la-Peaux, April 24th 1917 aged 24. Interred at Feuchy Chapel, British Cemetery, France.

F180 ... Also Charles Dobson, Pte. 1st Cheshire Regiment, Killed in Action in France, March 6th 1915, age 19 years.

F193 ... Also Thomas [Steele] the beloved son of the above, died in Mesopotamia, March 21st 1918, aged 37 years.

G36 ... Also Joseph [Probin] her dear husband, killed in action August 1916. His widow, Margaret, died in Feb. 1954.

There are no doubt others who served who are buried here, but for whom no special war reference was made. Among them we have previously written about Archibald Herbert 1898 – 1995, Thomas Blackburne 1894 – 1983, and Noel Bundred, all three in the "Tower Plot" for cremated ashes.

In all something like 65 men with links to the parish died in the war, from a population then in the region of 2,500. (some families moved here, with their memories, after it.) Their names are recorded on the memorials in church and on Palatine Rd.

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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 9.30am, 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. 2nd. 9.30am Messy Church #
11.00am Mr. Nic Harding
6.30pm United Evening Service at **Methodist** Church

9th **10.45am Service of Remembrance**

The Rev. Tim Nicholls

Followed by the wreath laying at the War Memorial
on Palatine Road.

16th 11.00am The Rev. Louise Gough

23rd 11.00am The Rev. Tim Nicholls, Holy Communion.

30th 11.00am Mrs. Audrey Barnard
6.30pm Taizé Style Service at Lawton Moor.

Dec. 7th 9.30am Messy Church
11.00am Morning Worship \$
6.30pm United Evening Service & St. Wilfrid's

14th 11.00am Morning Worship. \$

\$ The Preaching plan is not available at the time of printing.

Community Lunches

Wed. 12th November ~ 12 noon till 1.30pm

And then Dec. 10th (watch for notices. Details to be confirmed ~

Christmas arrangements & pre-booking.)

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.

Sunday Scramblers ~ for 3½ to age 7 upwards ~ meet, for the moment, in the Church Hall unless there is a Family Service, between 10.30 and 11.30am Sundays.

Nov. 2nd 10.30am Family Communion

6.30pm United Service at the Methodist church.

9th 10.30am Holy Communion

(Remembrance Parade Service at Methodist Church)

Wreath Laying & Act of Remembrance c.11.50 @ War Memorial

6.30pm Evening Worship.

16th 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening worship

23rd 10.30am Morning Prayer

6.30pm Holy Communion

30th 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

NB. 3pm, Confirmation at St. Luke's, Benchill.

Dec. 7th 10.30am Special Family & Parade Service

6.30pm United Service at St. Wilfrid's.

14th 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship.

Watch for details of the Carol Service on Sun. 21st Dec.

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.

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all happening!



Note the Street Market on 1st Nov. and 6th Dec., 10am ...

Details of the PCC, and Bible studies, Synod and the Bishop's possible visit to our area will be announced separately.

Women's Group. Mon. 3rd Nov. 7.45 for 8.00pm in the Rectory
Sumi Fernandez-Musoles talking on her visits to the Middle East.

Church Fair; Sat. 29th Nov. 11.00am – 1.30pm Church Hall

Confirmation on Sun. 30th Nov. at 3.00pm at St. Luke's Church, Benchill. Please contact the Rector if you wish to reaffirm your faith in this way.

Women's Group ~ Christmas Party in the Rectory, 7.00pm
Bring yourselves, your guests, and food for half a person.

Brownies' Christmas Fair, Mon. 8th Dec., 6.30pm-ish. Ch. Hall
Watch for details of a Christmas Carol concert and sing-along.

Registers ...



Married in the Parish Church ...

August 23rd. Sarah Ann Caroline Garnett to Jamie Robert Norman
August 29th. Hayley Louise Molloy to Mark John Colbeck

In Memoriam.

William Hartley, Esrene Jones, Malcolm Clegg,
Derek Claxton, Thomas Harkin, Thomas Whitby,
Vincent Scott,

Baptised on Sunday October 19th;
Genevieve Lily-Rose Evans, Noah James Basham

And last month's baptisms were on Sunday 21st, of course ~ another dating error!

Sunday Scramblers ~

are any members of the Congregation able and willing to take on a leadership role for this group? Talk to the Rector if you can.