

CONCORD ~ *October 2014*

Prayer for the Month

Lord of generosity and hope, the source of all good things, we thank you for the many benefits which we enjoy, not least our food and other material goods.

And we pray to you for those who lack these things, in our own country and overseas, and pray that through our actions and those of governments and aid agencies, these shortcomings may be met.

We pray too for a just sharing of the riches of our world, And a wise restraint in the exploitation of its resources.

For your honour and glory's sake. Amen.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.

0161 **998 2615**

Dear Friends,

Events in Scotland and the middle east meant that the U.N. Climate Change conference in New York in late September got rather overshadowed in our newspapers and TV screens, but there was some reporting of it ~ and the marches which took place before it in cities and villages around the world. Some friends, on leave in rural Spain, held a march with a dozen or so people, a dog and a few hens; in New York itself they talked about 400,000 on the march, stretching 80 blocks of that city's grid-like streets. The marches were to impress on the political leaders and scientists that this is something which they must take seriously. Human activity, mostly in the form of burning carbon fuels, has contributed to change in our overall climate, and will continue to do so. To ignore this is sowing seeds of disaster for our children ~ or even ourselves in old age; to make changes in our lifestyle (i.e. to repent!) may have some effect.

So one of our thoughts and themes this Harvest festival-tide should be to look for ways in which we as individuals can cut down on what we burn. Put on the extra cardigan, and turn down the central heating: walk or cycle to the shops when we can (that's probably good for our health, too). Look favourably on the neighbour's application for solar panels on her roof. If you must surface your garden, make the material porous, unless you really want to encourage flooding down the road.

All this is part of showing appreciation for what we have got in this wonderful, God-given world where we live, and for what we share with people across the earth. The other ways are perhaps more traditional, as we sing *All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above*, or bring harvest produce for distribution to the homeless or fill an envelope for Christian Aid.

And all this, not just because of our gratitude, or our foreboding for the future, but because (as we read the bible) we recognise that God intended us to be stewards ~ care - takers ~ of the earth we are put on; even our small corner of it.

But now read on.

Greg Forster

Magpie ...

... notes that the Boat Race, back in August, raised over £2,500 for work at Christie Hospital. The presentation was made at the end of September, and more may be forthcoming as those last promises of sponsorship are kept.

... occasionally looks into cupboards and shelves in the church and church hall, and gets a surprise. Several pairs of glasses (not all with both lenses); several half pairs of gloves (and even some complete pairs); a drop-forged adjustable spanner; a box of soya milk (in date!); a growing colony of bibles, not all with covers; the odd broken umbrella; enough spare washing up bowls to float a battleship; a squadron of tatty tin trays, ... They are being recycled appropriately!

... was alarmed to hear that the builders who were working on the Camperlands site near the river have gone bankrupt. So for the moment we are left with yet another site where unfinished walls and holes in the ground are all there is to see. It is not, however, the developers who are broke, he understands, and once a new contractor is found to take the job on things should proceed.

... nearby, the saga of the Tatton Arms continues. The owner has been served with a notice by the council to tidy it up, but is spending say £3000 on lawyers to contest the colour he should paint the boards on the windows, rather than hiring waste contractors at £3000 to do the job. So we are told. There's nowt so queer as folk!

... looked into a hole the other day. It was by the churchyard wall, near the Old Rectory, where the upper part of the wall had collapsed. It went down two and a half courses of stonework, and there did not appear to be any special foundations. The lower part of the wall seemed different from the upper ~ newer? ~ part. Does that mean the wall was raised once upon a time? The bottom was roughly level with the foundations of the Old Rectory ~ dating from the late 1700s at least. In the sandy soil alongside it were a couple of bits of clay pipe ~ the older, coarser type, which people smoked in (say) 1750, not 1850. There were bones there too, nearer the wall than expected, so Magpie did not delve any deeper.

... is only too well aware of the shortage of school places in the parts of Manchester where they are needed. He heard the other day of children being offered places in Northern Moor who live in Chorlton, or even (by mistake, probably) in Burnage. (By the way, Secondary children need to make choices this month, and Infant children in the next month or so for places in September 2015.) The group set up to campaign for more places here in Northenden for local children is meeting councillors and Local Authority officers at the end of September, and pressing for better provision here. The number of candidates for places seems to be growing ~ delightfully.

... has seen a lot of purple lately in the neighbourhood of St. Wilfrid's. You know about the Nigerian Anglicans who meet at lunch-time on Sundays ~ at a time when they can get here from the far corners of Greater Manchester, and when they are freer to use Nigerian styles of worship. Well, over the summer a number of Nigerian Bishops were visiting England, or passing through on the way to the States. Our minister here, the Ven. Gideon Ilechukwu, knows many of them, and persuaded them to drop in while they were here (even though in theory they were on leave.) to preach at special events, to lead communion and baptise the children. A busman's holiday! So it has been a privilege to welcome several of them, including the Archbishop of Niger Delta Province, the Most Revd. Ignatius Kattey, who hit the headlines even here earlier in the year when he was kidnapped. Another reminder, as last month in Concord, of how comfortable church life is in the UK, compared with other places.

... heard a ringing in his ears back at the beginning of August. On Aug. 4th., at 9.30pm, before the vigil at the war memorial to commemorate the start of the First World War, a team of ringers from Northenden and near-by parishes rang our church bells, half-muffled in mourning, as their and the parish's tribute to the fallen, and to show grief for that sad time.

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 too we attempt to capture what it felt like back home in Northenden.

Sapper Thomas Welsby, DCM.

Concord is not the only part of the Media which is researching stories from the first world war. In March I received a phone call from a researcher at the BBC, asking about Sapper Welsby. Did I know anything of him? They were doing something about the workers in Manchester's sewers, who had been drafted, along with miners and colleagues from other big cities, to work underground tunnelling under enemy trenches to set off explosions or intercept German attempts to tunnel under our lines. Apparently sewer men from Manchester were highly prized for this work, since our mud was similar to Flanders' mud, and as difficult to work!

I was able to pass on to her a copy of the parish magazine entry which recorded his death, in April 1917. He had been in France for a considerable time, we are told, and had proved a

most serviceable and fearless sapper. Rather more than a year before, for a deed of great daring in volunteering to forestall the enemy by blowing up one of their mines (i.e. a tunnel under British trenches) ~ which he successfully accomplished ~ he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. At the time the magazine records that it was awarded "for cool courage and bravery in exploding this mine, which the sappers had come across unexpectedly (sometimes you could hear the enemy digging, but in this case it seems not.) Before the Germans realised the proximity and at great personal risk Spr.Welsby set a time fuse after sending his colleagues to safety, and saved the situation as well as doing much damage to the enemy." He was sent back for Home service for a time, but returned to France and was killed in action. He is commemorated at the CWGC's Arras memorial rather than with an individual grave, which suggests to me that he was killed underground, and his body not recovered.

Mention should also be made of the Home Front. Feeding the Nation became an issue by 1916, and Lowry Hamilton, the Rector, made arrangements to use part of the churchyard that was not in use for burials for growing oats. A picture of the ploughing was used in February's Concord. In the April Parish Magazine of 1917 he assured the parish that the suggestion had come from the churchwardens and the bishop (of Chester) had given his blessing. "The care and reverence due to God's acre," he writes, "will be unimpaired."

Earlier in the war the parish had been keen to do its bit in the care of the wounded, and a Red Cross Hospital was set up in early 1916. This was announced in the Magazine with a certain amount of pride (since other nearby parishes had already been allocated their unit, and it seemed Northenden was being sidelined) by the curate, Mr.Herald. His article, liberally sprinkled with capital letters and bold type, asked for volunteers to clean Beech House, on Yew Tree Lane, and also asked for regular contributions to the running of the establishment. It seems that these convalescent homes were paid for as voluntary efforts, not from national funds. Readers in 2014 may feel sympathy with Mr.Herald when he writes, "We are, as a district, not well off, but if we stand by one another and every one of us do our best, the burden on each will not be too great. "IT IS HOPED HOWEVER, THAT OUTSIDE FRIENDS," he writes with emphasis, "will nevertheless help.

..." All the same, a few months later he appeals again for funds, and for visits to the 14 inmates ~ shortly to become 36 ~ of the hospital on visiting days, and portrays such action as patriotic service to those who have themselves given much for their country. The hospital was ~ and is ~ situated just to the west of the Parkway where it cuts Yew Tree Lane in half. The August Magazine reports, with a very modern sounding ring, that it showed "the highest state of efficiency" ! It also speaks of the time and effort put into the nursing care, largely by volunteers, it seems, from the district.

The hospital saw its share of sadness too. Sympathy is expressed in 1917 to the senior nurse, Sr.Todhunter, for the loss of two brothers at the front in recent months.

What the magazine does not mention (and that is not surprising) is that some of the wounded soldiers understandably formed too close friendships with local girls. Years later their children have shared with me the hurt heaped upon *them* for being the love-children of the war. I suppose our generation would take that in its stride, or at least not cast aspersions; then people could be very cruel, calling in their own children from playing with an illegitimate child for fear of shame by association.

The magazine itself is evidence of the way people tried to keep things going on as normal at home ~ the adverts for local business; the regular services and social events; the equivalent of a Diocesan Quota raised through one Sunday's special offerings (£21.0s.0d. Those were the days!); the establishment of a school for "ophthalmic children" by the Manchester Board of Guardians at Rose Hill; and a normal round of births, marriages and deaths. But there is also evidence of the hardships of war; in early 1918 the editor apologises that the quality of the paper has declined because of shortages. And through it all, the steady monthly list of casualties, and the notes of commiseration to widows or grieving parents.

Two other items stand out; one is a comment in the Rector's letter for December 1915, written from France, about reports he has heard of the amount of money being spent on drink in Britain, more than normal, despite so many men being out of the country. He denounces the laxity of the women of England, which he contrasts with the sobriety that he has noted

in the women he has seen in France. *On economic grounds, can we justify, he cries, the continuance of such evil? On religious grounds, can we lay claim to God's good hand upon us?* Later in the year, however, a call goes out in the Magazine for women willing to undertake war work, including on the farms, in order to keep the country going and support the war effort.

The other item is mention of Peace meetings. I confess that I do not fully understand this, but at the beginning of 1917 Mr. Hamilton speaks of Peace Meetings being broken up, "not by the thoughtless and ignorant crowd, but by men who have given their sons ... by patriots." I do not think these meetings were in Northenden, but perhaps they were in Manchester. They were in the news. By then there was certainly a war-weariness, and some were looking for a settlement. Hamilton denounces any peace without the restitution of liberty to occupied kingdoms, or the breaking of "Prussianism". It would be an injustice to the future generation and a dishonour to our heroic fallen, he says. Looking back, I am saddened at the thought of people being attacked for calling for peace, but given the circumstances of the time would I have said that then, or would I have written what my predecessor did? And what kind of peace were they calling for? Just a stop to the fighting, or an attempt to negotiate the just outcome that Hamilton envisaged only through fighting?

**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**

El Camiño de Santiago ... *August/September 2014*

During the summer one of our church members, Andrew Leach, took a rather energetic holiday. Here he describes it, and the rather surprising legend that inspired it.

I first heard of the Camino de Santiago when I was walking the Pyrenees about 10 years ago. I thought at the time it would be interesting one day perhaps to continue my journey on to Santiago de Compostela and so complete the route from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic.

Last year a French acquaintance named Paul had just returned from his 'Camino' and we spoke of travel, walking, food

and many things. Although he never entered my house as he was delivering logs, there was an empathy between us. I brought him back some special Abondance cheese from France which he likes as a thank you for the wood. He inspired me to cycle the Camino.

The story of St.James has as much the character of legend in Spain as St.George has in England. Facts about his life are hard to come by, although it is certain that in 44AD he was beheaded by Herod Agrippa in Jerusalem. The rest is however hypothesis. His body and head are said to have been taken by followers, Athanasius and Theodoro, to Jaffa where a stone boat was commissioned and within a week this boat and its precious cargo were washed up at modern day Padron, only 20k from modern day Santiago de Compostela where he was buried. For 800 years he appears to have lain undisturbed and forgotten until a hermit called Pelagius had a vision of a star shining on a field (Compo ~ Field, Stela ~ Star) and his tomb was discovered. Some time later king Alfonso II declared St.James ~ Iago in Spanish ~ patron saint of Spain. He was reported to be seen in battle against the Moors on a white charger. A Church was built over his tomb and the history of Santiago de Compostela began.

This summer Gerard, Michael, Neil and I set off for Bilbao to cycle the Camiño. We carried just the bare essentials. It was going to be hot. We planned to cycle about 100k every day over beautiful landscapes to parts of Spain which we had never heard of or imagined ~ look up Burgos, Laon, Logroño, to name a few of our stops. These places were a revelation to us. The people we met along the way came from all points of the compass. Levenshulme to Christ Church, N.Z., and everywhere in between.

Everyone we met had a different story and reasons for their journey ~ too many to tell here, although one chap in Santiago dressed as an old-fashioned pilgrim had been walking for years and has lived off the land without money or any modern day accoutrements. Others had walked the last 100k to receive their certificate. Some people had walked/cycled from Poland, Austria, Italy ~ you name it ~ and here were to be found pilgrims. One German boy I spoke with had walked into Santiago in bare feet. The reasons for their journeys? As numerous as their origins: spiritual; penance; in memory of a loved one; a challenge? Others because it was just there to do.

The food along the way was in most places wonderful (pilgrims' fare on average for 3 course was €15, inc. wine, coffee and water) Accommodation was excellent and inexpensive. We stayed in small hostels or converted Monasteries, which offered good value. We could have stayed in an Albergue for about €5-€10 per night, but the thought of a large dormitory for the night wasn't for us. At every stage along the way you received a stamp to prove the distance you had travelled and at the end you receive a certificate once your credentials are produced.

We travelled through the Navarra region and on to the Castilian flatlands between 800 – 900 metres for two days in the searing heat, with little or no shade and arrived in Galicia with its green mountainous landscape. I hope to return in the future to explore and experience some more of this beautiful part of Spain, which I would imagine few British people have visited.

On our penultimate day we stopped at a small town called Sarria, and visited a small church. We sat outside and had a sandwich and drink and set off again. We all said we needed more food and a coffee, and decided we would stop somewhere soon. We must have passed a few dozen places selling coffee and were leaving town up a steep hill when Neil's foot slipped off the pedal. We all stopped to see if he was OK, when a voice from behind me said, "Hello, Mr. Andrew Leach. How are you?" At first I did not recognise the face with the goatee beard and black shirt, and I was trying to figure out who it was; then I realised it was Paul ~ the guy who had inspired me to do the Camiño. Was this divine intervention, purely coincidence, or just chance? He was working at a restaurant, and served us some excellent fare, and we talked for a while, said our goodbyes and cycled on.

Arriving in Santiago was something of an anticlimax, with its busy streets and pilgrims everywhere, and we were tired after another long hot day in the saddle.

Did we have a religious experience? What had the journey taught us? We spent some hours discussing this over dinner that night. It was a great journey over a terrific landscape, meeting interesting people. You find out things about yourself and what your body is capable of. I cycled for five days with a badly sprained ankle. Most people we met had blisters and bandages here and there. Everyone was in agreement that it was a real sense of achievement, one we are unlikely to forget in a hurry.

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.

- Oct. 5th 9.30am Messy Church
11.00am **Harvest Festival** The Rev. Tim Nicholls
6.30pm United Evening Service at Methodist Church.
- 12th 11.00am Mr. Ian Castledine
- 19th **10.30am** Holy Communion (?) at **Lawton Moor**
The Rev. Philip Peacock (United Service)
- 26th 11.00am Mrs Olivia Tu'ihalamaka
- 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.

Community Lunches

Wed. 8th October ~ 12 noon till 1.30pm

And then Nov. 12th (Details to be confirmed)

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. Contact details, 998-3304.

- Oct. 5th 10.30am **Harvest Festival Family Service.**
6.30pm Evening Worship at the Methodist church.
- 12th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship
- 19th As 12th.
- 26th 10.30am **GMT** Morning Prayer
6.30pm Holy Communion.
- 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)
6.30pm Evening Worship.

Drop in on St. Wilfrid's ...
On Sundays from 2.30 till 5.00pm
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 Harvest Lunch in church after the morning service on 5th Oct. Bring yourselves and food for half a person.

Mon. 6th Oct. Women's Group; Rectory, 7.45 for 8.00pm

Wed. 15th Oct. 7.30pm Concert in Church
Palatine Wind Quintet ~ in aid of the Booth Centre.

Sat. 25th Coffee Morning in Hall, 10.00 – 11.30am.

Thur. 30th Oct. PCC meeting in Hall, 7.30pm

Please note too that there will be a Confirmation on Sunday 30th November at 3.00pm at St.Luke's Church, Benchill. Contact the Rector if you wish to reaffirm your faith in this way.

Registers ...



Baptised on Sunday September 19th;
Sadie Poppy Thompson, Jasmine Ameria Leigh McLeod.

Triathlon !

The thought of it takes my breath away, but Kathryn Morgan, St.Wilfrid's treasurer, was game for it. "This triathlon thing" (she wrote) "is a big thing for me. Two years ago I started running and it's evolved into a triathlon□I'm doing it with four women friends who are also actuaries in London, and we're all running for pants." ~ a women's charity providing under-wear in the third world. Well, that was a couple of months ago, and Kathryn told me recently that the team, mostly her, had raised over £3,000 for the cause. Well done ~ well run/swum/cycled!