

# CONCORD ~ *September 2012*

## Prayer for the Month

Lord of the harvest, we lift to you the varied needs of a hungry world ~ hungry to know your love, hungry for peace, and hungry for its daily bread.

Bless the proclamation of your truth in our words and our worship; bless the peacemakers and all who hunger and thirst to see right prevail; and bless those who bring relief and work to promote fairness in the world's trade in food, and wisdom in its use of natural resources.

That our world may know the richness of your generous love.  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.  
0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

By the time Concord hits your doormats we may know the outcome of the appeal over the over-tall flats at the corner of Church Rd. I do not have any idea of the outcome, though all along I have been surprised, though not displeased, by official decisions. What I hope does become clear from the judgment is that the planning process is not something to be ignored and sidestepped, either by the small man making a handy change to his extension, or the big developer trying to squeeze the last pound out of a site. We shall see.

Later in this issue Sue has some words about the churchyard, written with feeling ~ the feeling of numbness and stiffness that comes from kneeling or sitting on gravestones, weeding, for hours on end!

This is the first time I've been able to comment about the Olympics ~ not about the sport, which speaks for itself and was rather splendid, but about the people, and the ceremonies which were (you might say) liturgies for a secular world. Two people stand out for me. Neither won medals. In fact, I think both of them came last, but that was not important. Sarah Attar in long track-suit trousers, long sleeves and a head covering, stood out from her opponents in their tank tops and shorts. She finished her heat over half a lap behind the winner. Still, the crowd in London

cheered as she crossed the finish line. Just by showing up and competing under the flag of Saudi Arabia she was achieving something that no medal could signify. The other competitor was Oscar Pistorius, a double amputee competing on a level playing field with able bodied athletes. Ironically he was left standing at the relay change-over as sadly his able-bodied team mate had been spiked in an accident back down the track. (I think the team were somehow reinstated) For them, their nations and our world here was something that really lives up to that adage that it is as important to have competed as to have won.

So, to the Ceremonies ... Can you remember back that far? All sorts of descriptions have been applied to them; quirky seems to have been the most popular. The opening one actually had quite a Christian theme, with its use of the Glastonbury Legend and Blake's *Jerusalem* for a theme-song, and *Amazing Grace* fitted in among the wilder pop-songs. (Was it God's grace, or the physical grace of the competing athletes they had in mind?)

The closing event was more secular, complete with a polystyrene cut-out John Lennon, and the singing of his *Imagine*. That, fittingly, has the theme of a world at one with itself, which matches the Olympic dream too, but for all its wistful beauty, and the poignancy of its writer's own story, it is profoundly naïve.

Lennon recognised it was a dream. Perhaps it was a nightmare. He focused on the bad things about nationalism, ... *nothing to kill or die for ...*, but nations also mean positive things ~ like a National Health Service, a road system, and sewerage, and for all its possible limitations, a system of law and order which restrains the kind of people who hear the line, *all the people living for today*, and take it as a license to live solely for themselves and what they can take, devil take the hindmost. But then, all those ideas don't rhyme very easily, or fit the rhythm. More seriously, we should not forget that the very similar ideas of Karl Marx, that the State would wither on the vine, led more or less directly to Stalin's dictatorship.

I suppose the line *no religion too* strikes a chord with people who accept the shallow humanist propaganda that religion is the cause of wars. True, people often use religion as a tribal badge, or claim that God is on their side, or even think they have to defend God by fighting! The very thought! As Christians at least we should know that we serve a Prince of Peace, ... though I can go along with Lennon to this extent: I do not think Jesus came to establish a

religious structure and hierarchy, though a community of believers was in his vision.

As for *imagining there's no heaven*, I don't think that is a matter of my imagination, or Lennon's either. You can argue whether it is true or false, but if it is there, as I believe to be the case, no amount of imagining will alter that fact. Pretty song ~ shame about the thinking.

That's all important, but you want to know about other things too, so now read on. **Greg Forster**

### **What a Riot.**

*G S F.*

The recent jailing of three members of a Russian feminist pop group who dared to stage a protest against Vladimir Putin in a Moscow cathedral may seem a minor incident in a distant country, but it raises some interesting and perhaps alarming questions. At one level, I imagine most British people would support their gesture for freedom of speech and fair elections, and be suspicious of any politician who cannot take a joke. But perhaps I imagine wrong. Look at the way a fair proportion of Britain was offended by the "Occupy" protests that ended up on the pavement *outside* St. Paul's cathedral, and that only by mistake since they could not reach their intended target. What if they had gone in?

How would we react, I wonder, if one of our services was interrupted by a high-kicking cabaret which spoofed our liturgies? Would we (like St. Paul's) invoke Health and Safety, and say that high kicking in a confined space was too risky? Would we invoke a Law of (I think) 1882 against interrupting divine worship, that gives church-wardens powers of arrest? Or might we say *Amen to all that* and join in seriously with prayers (perhaps not to the Virgin Mary, though!) to protect our country from a potential tyrant, even if those performing and protesting were not seriously directing prayer to the Almighty? Or would we (like what St. Paul's were working at anyway) have tried to engage all parties in dialogue?

I'm not sure that I can honestly suggest an answer to these questions. The prayers against a tyrant, yes, though with the same breath we do pray for those in power and God's guidance and overruling in what they do. Cabaret? Probably not. Spoofing liturgy? That can offend people, and offending can be wrong even if the spoofing is sometimes deserved. Arrest, imprisonment? ~ that is overkill, and I hope that Mr. Putin realises it, just as now senior Russian clergy, at last, have asked for clemency for these offenders.

# Northenden Methodist Church

Minister: The Revd. David Bown,  
5 Kenworthy Lane, Northenden, M 22  
0161 – 998-2158

## Sunday Services.

***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 now increased to **£1.50p** per person.

For details contact Amy Carline, 07816 888 704

Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> 9.00am Messy Church

**10.45am CIRCUIT SERVICE.**  
**A Circuit Celebration at WYTHENSHAW FORUM**  
**Marking the launch of the new Circuit, 10.45am – 3.00pm.**

#	6.30pm	United Service at <b>St. Wilfrid's</b>	#
	9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am The Rev. David Clowes	
16 <sup>th</sup> ,		11.00am Mr. Nic Harding	
23 <sup>rd</sup> .		11.00am. The Rev. Malcolm Purdy	
30 <sup>th</sup> .		11.00am The Rev. David Bown (Holy Communion).	
Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup> .	9.00am	Messy Church	
	11.00am	Mrs. Pat James	
	6.30pm	United Service @ Northenden Methodist Ch.	
	14 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am Mr. Ron Caseley.	

# We are into to Drama season again, and Northenden Players will have a performance on this Sunday in the hall, so arrangements for joint services are being juggled to avoid a clash with them.

## Community Lunch

Wed., Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> 12 noon - 1.30pm ~  
Next lunch ~ Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>. (**to be confirmed**)

## **A New Circuit.**

As the culmination of several years prayer and hard work, and some joint working already, the newly amalgamated "Bramhall and Wythenshawe" Circuit begins on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, and is being launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. with a service at 10.45am at Wythenshawe Forum, followed by a Big Picnic and a range of activities, culminating with a short blessing at 3.00pm. For the Wythenshawe churches this will mean a wider range of resources and personnel to draw upon; for the Bramhall, Wilmslow and Cheadle churches a grounding in some innovative community projects.

There are thirteen churches in the circuit, and the superintendent minister is the Rev. Gill Newton, who is based in Bramhall. David Bown remains, of course, as minister here, but as part of a team of seven ordained staff.

## **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 Roger Hensman, 980-5158.

The main hall and smaller rooms are available for hire;  
~ contact Peter Todhunter (Meeting House Warden) 834-5797

## **St. Michael and All Angels.**

St. Michael's Church in Lawton Moor (that's its official church title, rather than Northen Moor) was the second daughter church of St. Wilfrid's. (The first was St. Hilda's, on Kenworthy Lane, but that's a different story!) It celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in November this year with a special event on Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Incidentally this will, I gather, be one of the last events in the diocese that Bishop Nigel will be taking part in before he retires. Congratulations

St. Michael's has a loyal and active congregation, who do a lot of their own maintenance, but there is one job that is above them. Cashmael Day's listed design included a weighty concrete cross on a flat concrete roof ~ the recipe for subsidence and problems, it is hoped soon to be resolved thanks to the wonders of modern technology, and some vigorous lobbying in the right places.

# 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 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 ...

... except when there is a Family Service in church ( Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>., 30<sup>th</sup>., &c.) ~ and not during the main school holidays in August.

Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am Family Communion

**§ Nigerian Congregation See panel.**

6.30pm United Service **at St.Wilfrid's #**

9<sup>th</sup>, 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

16<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

23<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

30<sup>th</sup>. 10.30am **Harvest Festival family service**

followed by a shared lunch in church.

6.30pm Holy Communion

Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion ("Standard")

6.30pm United Service at Northenden Methodists

14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am **St.Wilfrid's "Day"** Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship.

**#** Northenden Players have a performance on this Sunday, and arrangements for joint services are juggled to avoid a clash.

As Concord is being prepared we are discussing with the Nigerian Congregation details of *weekly* afternoon services on their part.

## Drop in on St. Wilfrid's ...

**On most Sundays from 2.30 till 5.30pm the church is open, for private prayer, for enquiries, or just to look around.**

*Note the now slightly later times.*

On Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> the church will be open from 3.30 till about 5.30pm in this way.

To visit at other times, please contact the Rector.

**The next open week-end (with tower climbs, &c.) is Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon till 5.00pm both days. to coincide with the national "Heritage Open Days".**

**We hope to have various displays of local, historical and Christian interest on show.**

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all happening!



Mon. 3<sup>rd</sup> **Sept.** 7.45 for 8.00pm Rectory Women's Group.

Note the open days, 12 noon to 5.00pm on Sat & Sun, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Sept

Wed. 19<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm Bible Study, Rectory.

Mon. 24<sup>th</sup> 4.30pm School Governors' Meeting.

7.30pm Deanery Synod Meeting at Christ Church, W.Didsbury

Wed. 26<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm Bible Study, Rectory.

Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> 10.00am ... Coffee Morning, Church Hall.

Sun. 30<sup>th</sup> NB lunch in church after the family service ~

Bring food, if you can, for half a person, but come anyway!

Wed. 3<sup>rd</sup> **Oct.** 8.00pm Bible Study, Rectory. (**Not** 10<sup>th</sup>)

The date of the Sept./Oct. **P.C.C.** meeting has still to be arranged

as we discuss at the August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting whether to work on a

monthly or six-weekly cycle and then fix dates further ahead 28<sup>th</sup> ~

but keep Thurs., 4<sup>th</sup> Oct. at 7.30pm free!

Note the two **Farmers' Markets** on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. and 6<sup>th</sup> Oct.

### ***Stand Up for Jesus!***

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Sept., from 10am till 1pm,

And Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept., from 12.30 to 3.00pm,

In St. Wilfrid's Church there will be two Anglican Revival Meetings

Led by **the Rt. Rev. Sam Ezeofor**, Bishop of Ogbaru

With prayer for salvation, healing deliverance and breakthrough

~ **organised by the Nigerian Anglicans in Manchester.**

## Women's Group.

The next meeting will be on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>., when Sophie M<sup>c</sup>Coy will be speaking about battery chickens ~ and in case anyone is allergic to feathers, be warned that she may well bring a couple along.

I'm combining the October and November meetings as I am not free the first two weeks of October. John Garrard, the Chair of the trustees of The Booth Centre, has kindly agreed to come and talk about their work. The date, later in October probably, has yet to be confirmed. **Sue F.**

## The Parish Registers –

In Memoriam ...



Married, in the Parish Church on 28<sup>th</sup> July

Jodene Rachel Holbrook Tandy to Stephen Andrew Skinner

And on 4<sup>th</sup> August

Christy Lea Ablott to Jonathan Ward.

Baptisms;

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August, by the Ven. Augustine Ogbunugwu

Nmesoma Olive Ogbunugwu,  
Chiamaka Victory Chidiogo Ogbunugwu.

... and on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Aug.

Casey Jake Pierce, Theo Edward Brumby.  
Maisie Belle Heathcote, Shay David Donoghue.

## Thoughts from a Country Churchyard

The churchyard is a full time job! We have a part time gardener, Peter, but his two hours a week in summer go on mowing paths and areas which are already fairly short. We have also had some voluntary help in the past, most recently from Joe Broom who, as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award work, removed turf that was encroaching across some of the flat gravestones ~ but the grass soon encroaches again, particularly in warm wet years like this one.

May I tactfully point out that the upkeep of individual graves is the responsibility of the families concerned? Having said that, Greg and I are well aware that for many of them there are no families in the vicinity or the remaining relatives are elderly or housebound, and we are only too happy to try to keep their graves in order. But there are many that frequently have flowers or other tributes put on them without any attempt to clear them of grass or weeds. A pair of shears, or in the case of the plots for cremated remains an old table knife to run along the cracks around each stone, would clear a stone in minutes; doing all of them takes hours. The only realistic way to cope is with a strimmer, and that both damages and is damaged by vases and other additions, so is not ideal. Plants in pots that dry out, cards, or bunches of flowers in wrappers, often get blown away: sadly we then have no idea where to replace them.

Please, if you are able, keep your little patch tidy (but please, do not use weedkillers.) and if there is anyone who fancies a spot of weeding or dead-heading around the church, you are welcome to, only please bring your own tools. The green bins are up near the Old Rectory entrance to the churchyard. *Plastic* wrappers and bags should go in the *black* bins (even if they contain greenstuffs) which are in the same place. Thank you. **Sue F.**

Northenden Players Theatre Club  
at the Methodist Hall, Victoria Rd.  
Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> (not Mon. 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
7.00 / 7.30pm  
Iron *by Rona Munro*  
*Tickets: contact Barbara Leary, 0161 445-6868*

### **Magpie ...**

... wonders whether anyone can remember when the present Tatton Bridge was put over the Mersey in place of the old, slatted wooden structure. Let the Rector know if you have memories of it.

... has had a word with people in the know at the Tatton Arms, who confirm that there was a cock-fighting arena in the roof-space, but that it was not particularly elaborate: it was no more than an area 'designated in the roof space with some wooden planks screwed to the roof purlins to create seating for punters.' They

were removed in 2009 when work was being done to prepare the building for use as a restaurant. Sadly, the intending operator of this went bankrupt, and the property has of course been vacant since. But given that the Tatton was only rebuilt to its present design in the opening years of the last century, what does that say about the sporting habits of our relatively near ancestors, when the "sport" was supposedly banned (wasn't it)?

... flew in over the Spread Eagle only the other day, to find that it had been indeed spread-eagled. Flattened, no less! The contractors mentioned finding the footings of the old houses and cottages on the site from before the 1960s "Spread". One of them would have been the old cottage pub run ( was it) by the Davies sisters from their front room. Those houses were interesting. There are letters in the church collection from Sir Edward Watkin, of Rose Hill, suggesting that he had some cottages built on land he owned on that corner, which he intended to provide private independent income for his wife from the rents. They also indicate his intention to make over the present wide part of the church path as a carriage drive for the church.

... Sir Edward, and his father Absalom, are interesting characters, who have featured before in Concord. Both are buried in the churchyard here, together with their wives. There are moves afoot to get them the recognition they deserve. Geoff Scargill, a retired Stockport head teacher who addressed the Civic Society at their last AGM, has been talking with council officers about securing and clearing the monument Edward erected to his father in what was then the grounds of Rose Hill ~ now the edge of Rose Hill woods within the Mersey Valley leisure area, hard against the fence of the luxury flats complex which includes the Watkin's old house.

... A blue plaque would be in order too ~ but where? The house is too far from the public road, and it's fence is too insubstantial. What about the wall near the turning into Bronington Close, on Longley Lane, which was the boundary of their property?

### **Church Hall.**

*Greg Forster*

If you walk past the church hall at the moment you will see a notice from the council, referring to a planning application to alter the windows of the hall. I mentioned this a couple of months ago. The intention is to improve the warmth in the small room by replacing glazing with wooden panels in the same frames. Behind

the panels there will be two inches of insulation. If funds permit the main remaining windows of that room will be double glazed. This scheme will also give more privacy in the room. A plan is on show at the hall.

The inspiration, though not the method, comes from work on St. Wilfrid's school, which has recently had its 1960s steel and glass walls replaced with modern units, and from being a cold building is now almost too warm!

The next **Civic Society** meeting is to be in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

### **HERITAGE OPEN DAYS AT St. WILFRID'S AND OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST.**

As noted above St. Wilfrid's Church is open during the Heritage Open Days Week-end, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Sept. from noon till 5pm.

The national scheme actually runs from the Thursday, and churches, other historic buildings, and locations are open, with special events organised in some cases, around the country. There is probably something on in Didsbury, as in previous years.

For details of what's on, see **[www . heritageopendays . org . uk /](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/)**

## Hire a Hall ?

Mention of improvements to St. Wilfrid's hall earlier prompts an advert!

The Hall is available for parties, meetings, sports training or other uses, one off or regular.

We have a number of bookings already fixed, but are always ready to discuss availability with potential users; we regard it as a resource for the village as well as for the church.

Rates vary, depending on frequency and the kind of usage planned.

To discuss this, contact the Rector, 998-2615

## **What's On?**

As we enter the autumn season, a list of some of the planned events may be helpful ~ though more may be added.

Harvest Festival at St. Wilfrid's Sun. 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. with lunch in church.

St. Wilfrid's Day celebrated on Sun. 14<sup>th</sup>, 10.30am service.

Possible Concert, to be confirmed, by Palatine Wind Quintet,  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Oct., 7.30pm

All Saints' Celebration (and *in memoriam* service)  
Sun. 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. 10.30am GMT.

St. Michael's Anniversary. 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov., 3pm?

Remembrance Sunday Parade @ Methodist Ch. Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, 10.45am

Autumn Fair, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov. times to be announced.

Folk Carols. Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec., 7.30pm t.b.c.

Carol Service, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 3.00pm

"Midnight" service 24<sup>th</sup> @ 11.30pm, Christmas services @ 8 & 10.30

*Coffee Mornings on Saturdays 29<sup>th</sup> Sept., and 27<sup>th</sup> Oct.*