

CONCORD ~ September 2013

Prayer for the Month

May our loving God,
 who has called us all to serve him in his church,
 pour upon us the riches of his generous love,
 so that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people
 we may be daily renewed and inspired by his holy Spirit;
 may daily honour and serve him in our various callings,
 and come to the inheritance of his saints in glory.

Through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Based on a prayer in the Baptism Service ~ a prayer for new beginnings!

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.
 0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

Firstly, can I welcome Tim Nicholls as the new minister at the Methodist Church. His remit covers Northen Moor and Baguley as well. He has introduced himself more fully later on in this issue of Concord.

Best wishes also to Margaret Young as she is inducted on Sept. 1st as the new team Vicar of St.Luke's church in Benchill. She has been curate there for the past few years. It is actually quite unusual for us clerics to move from a curacy into being vicar of the same parish, so this is a vote of confidence in her from the congregation and the church at large. She was, of course, ordained from Northenden, and has lived here until this move.

And welcome also to Kate Constant as she begins as Head Teacher at St.Wilfrid's Primary School from the beginning of this term. She moves here from Stanley Grove Primary School ~ now reorganised as an academy ~ in Longsight where she has been deputy head and for a time acting principal, as well as taking on other responsibilities in a wider educational community. We welcome her, and look forward to working with her in continuing to develop the school and enhancing the education of children here in Northenden.

And briefly, as we move into the Harvest season, an encouragement to gratitude and generosity, in the light of the oh! so many things which God provides for us in his generosity. So read on. There are practical ideas on page 12. **Greg Forster**

Northenden Methodist Church

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

Sunday Services.

Family worship ~ Sunday breakfast club ~ MESSY CHURCH

****Usually the 1st Sunday every month****

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 this is a Bank or School Holiday, check with Amy to find out what alternative arrangements may have been made ~

Sept. 1st 9.00am ?? Messy Church ~ to be confirmed

11.00am Morning Worship ~

District Service @ Wythenshawe Forum Hall..

At this service we welcome the Revd. Tim Nicholls to work in the greater Northenden area, and a colleague working elsewhere in the Bramhall and Wythenshawe Circuit.

NB evening service at **St.Luke's**, 6.30pm (see St.Wilfrid's pages)

8th 11.00am Morning Worship.

15th 22nd 29th, 11.00am Morning Services,

Oct. 6th 9.00am Messy Church

11.00am Morning Worship

6.30pm United Service at Methodist Church

13th 11.00am Morning Worship

(The Autumn preachers' roster is not yet available.)

Community Lunch

Wed. Sept. 11th, 12 noon till 1.30pm ~ to be confirmed

(Next lunch, Wed. Oct. 9th ~ also to be confirmed)

Introducing Tim Nicholls ...

My name is Tim Nicholls and I am the new Methodist Minister responsible for the churches of Northenden, Lawton Moor and Baguley Hall. I have just finished my training for the ministry at Wesley House in Cambridge. Before moving to Cambridge I lived in the East End of London, for eleven years working in the charitable/ not-for-profit sector as a Manager, Campaigner and Community developer.

I am delighted to be moving to Northenden and look forward to the opportunity to share in the life of the local community. I arrive at an exciting time for Northenden Methodist Church, following all of the changes to the Church building overseen by my predecessor the Revd David Bown. I look forward to working with the local Churches and Community groups and organisations to support and encourage the many different voices within the local area to be heard, and to provide a safe, inviting and welcoming space for all.



The Revd. Tim Nicholls

Northenden Players ...

... begin their new season on 1st Sept, in the Methodist Hall ~
but I do not have their Play List yet.

Northenden Civic Society

There is a meeting of the society on the second Tuesday each month, in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall, at 7.30pm. Its **website** is < [www . northendencivicsociety . org](http://www.northendencivicsociety.org) >. It also has a **Facebook** site; access it via the website. Next Meeting, 10th Sept. We also hope to have a special meeting in early October about HS2.

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 Sue Shaw at the Central Manchester Office, 834-5797

Hello again, God, ...

Yes, me again. It's the flies this time, buzzing around.
 They're clever enough to get into my room,
 and too stupid to get out. You can't win, can you?

I heard that rhyme the other day;
*God in his wisdom made the fly
 And then forgot to tell us why.*

Neat, that. But why? And why not tell us?

Is it really 'cos you forgot,
 or 'cos you want us to work it out ourselves?

You see, I think I know.

I watched some flies the other day.
 They were crawling all over a dead mouse ~ Yuk!
 It was too yukky even to clear away,
 but they seemed to like it.

Then there were sort of yellow dots all over it,
 almost like fur;

I reckon they were eggs,
 'cos a bit later there were these white crawly things ~ maggots.

Are they baby flies? Yuk again!

But then they were all gone,
 and there were a lot of flies around,
 but a lot of swallows and martins too ~ cool!

And the mouse?

It was all cleaned up and not yukky any more.

So is that why you made the fly?

To clear up after us
 so that there aren't mountains of dead mice everywhere ~
 and so that the swallows have something to eat?

So some things that seem nasty work out OK ~
 it's not just flies, I suppose ~
 and are here for something after all.

But that blessed fly! It's still here.

It may be blest,

but I do wish it would buzz off
and be blessed somewhere else.

Honest.

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.
except July 28th.

Also on Thursdays there is a communion service, at 10am.
“**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, or as announced.

The Nigerian Anglican “Restoration” Congregation meets
weekly at **12.30pm** for about 2 hours in St. Wilfrid's Church. The
service includes traditional and modern music.

Sept. 1st 10.30am Family Communion

** 6.30pm **No Service here ~ @ St. Luke's, Benchill.****

8th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship.

15th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

22nd 10.30am Morning Prayer
6.30pm Holy Communion

29th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

Oct. 6th Harvest Festival Sunday

10.30am Festival Family Service & Parade + **Lunch.**
6.30pm United Service @ Methodist Church.

13th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

**** On 1st Sept.** there will be no evening service here. Margaret Young is being inducted as vicar of St.Luke's Benchill, and it seems appropriate for us to go to support her in this. Service: 6.30pm

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.

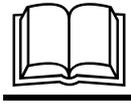
To visit at other times, please contact the Rector.

The next **Open Week-end** is on **September 14th & 15th** ~ with displays and the opportunity to climb the tower ~ linked to the national "**Heritage Open Days**" week-end.

Hunt the ancestors (or the mice), Village Plans? ...

The Parish Registers -

Married, in the parish church



On 3rd August ...

Natasha Findlay to Michael Cook.

10th August ...

Gemma Sheila Stott to Gareth Graham Edwards.

Baptised, in the parish church on Sun.

18th August

Oliver Zbigniew Taylor, Lucas Carl Whitby-Kennedy,

Samuel Thomas Watkinson, Dolly-Sue Copeland

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all

happening!



***Farmers' Market, in the village on September 7th ~
and it may be a rather grander affair than usual***

Thur. 5th **Sept.**, PCC meeting, 7.30pm., Church Hall.

Mon. 9th Women's Group 7.45 for 8.00 pm. Rectory

Tue. 10th Northenden Civic Society Meeting in St. Wilfrid's Hall

Wed. 11th Bible Study in the Rectory, 8.00pm

Open Days ~

Heritage Open Days

These are on Sat. 14th & Sun. 15th Sept.

(Not the week earlier as I have previously printed.)

Saturday 12 noon to 5.30pm, Sunday 2.00 – 6.00pm

As usual, Tower trips & historical and contemporary displays.

Wed. 18th Bible Study, Rectory. 8.00pm

Thu. 19th The clergy of the deanery join us for the 10.00am
Communion Service.

Mon. 23rd School Governors "Twilight"
Deanery Synod @ St. Martin's, Baguley 7.30pm

Wed. 25th Bible Study Rectory, 8.00pm

Sat. 28th Coffee Morning 10.00am ... in Church Hall.

Wed. 2nd, 9th **Oct.** Bible Studies. Rectory, 8.00pm

And also Note ...

Riverside Park AGM in St. Wilfrid's Hall on Tues. 1st Oct.

The Farmers' (and others') Market on Sat. 5th Oct.

Northenden Civic Society regular meeting on Tues. 8th Oct.

We Will Remember Them !

Just a reminder ~ as mentioned last month, if anyone has family stories about the 1914 War, and especially about people buried or commemorated here in Northenden who served or died in it, please let me know them, for a series in Concord next year featuring them.

Greg Forster

HS2

Greg Forster

As readers will know, the current proposals for the extension of High Speed rail to the North of England will bring the line into Manchester under Northenden. This raises a number of questions in many people's minds ~ to do with noise and disturbance, house values and saleability, engineering issues, &c. I have met with the area manager for the project recently, and we hope to be able to organise an information meeting for anyone concerned here in Northenden. This should be in early October, but the date has yet to be fixed because quite a number of people have to be consulted. It will be well publicised when we have it arranged.

Magpie ...

The renovation work on the **Methodist Church** is now complete, apart from the snagging. Thanks to the timely intervention of the Lord Mayor's Charity the old worship area has been reworked and improved. Strangely, without the pews the space in each half seems no smaller than the original whole, even though it is split into two spaces ~ a worship area across what was the pulpit and sanctuary, and an open hall for community use in what was the "nave". What I said last month about a mezzanine floor has not in fact been done: the complications of lifts and access were too great for the present. The organ and communion rail have been retained as a decorative feature (with a loudspeaker for electronic music, if required, built in.) Lovely!

Work is also proceeding apace at St. Wilfrid's church hall, where ten years of cobwebs have been removed from the high corners of the ceiling, and the inside walls of the large hall have been repainted. Planning permission was received at the end of July for remodelling the windows of that hall, and this too is more than half done. The interior insulation and panelling is complete, but the exterior painting is not finished, and replacing some rotten wood is a slightly bigger job than anticipated. New double glazing has been paid for by a "CAS:H" grant from the City Council (*Thanks, folks!*). After risking soap and water on Harry Hollins's vast mural of Northenden river front, in the pre-motorway era, (no problem ~ phew! ~ and a remarkable transformation ~ wow!) Sue Forster has touched up all the blemishes, cause by damp, or (we think) snooker cues. Others involved are Joe and Jackie Walker, Sumi Sundar, Carlos Fernandez-Musoles, and Jean Davies with occasional encouragement from Sable the Cat. Anthony, from

the Homes of Hope house opposite is also helping with external painting (weather permitting!).

That gives me a good opening to talk about the Homes of Hope project at 21 Ford Lane. It is promoted and managed by the King's Church which is based near the university in Manchester. For some years they have opened their doors each week to people who are sleeping rough in the city, and have been able to help some of these to begin sorting themselves out, through God's grace. But moving from the streets to a home of one's own is not an easy step, and this is where the project comes in. The aim is to offer supported living to a carefully prepared group for a couple of years to enable them to get back on their feet more fully. Members of the church are on call 24/7 in case particular support is needed, and the project worker, Gary Stretton, works from 21 Ford Lane. Understandably local people have been uncertain about this scheme, so that the Council has only given consent for this use of the house for a two year period initially, but we can be assured that people are not being taken in unprepared from the street, and they certainly cannot reel in out of the gutter unannounced!

But there has been a certain amount of reeling in Ford Lane (and for that matter along Palatine Rd.) lately. This has nothing to do with no.21. If anything it is to do with the church itself. The church performs an awkward balancing act between caring for those who struggle with grief or other very hard times, and protecting ordinary folk from aggravation or perceived threat.

Magpie has made some enquiries about the tower block at the end of Church Rd. What is happening there? Well, so far as the City Council knew a few weeks ago, the developers' agent indicated that they are discussing matters with their contractor to begin work. SUV type Vehicles have been seen on the forecourt! Who could that be?

And the Rector got it wrong. That rhyme about the rival bells in the neighbouring towers; It wasn't ...

*Didsbury bells; pots and pans –
Cheadle bells; kettles and cans –
Northen bells; sweet music!*

... but ... *Northen sweet music, Didsbury pans;*

Cheadle old kettles, and Stockport old cans.

Which do you think sounds the better rhyme? It was quoted in the parish magazine in 1887 as if no longer current. And which are the better bells? Didsbury bells don't actually sound too bad when they practice on Tuesday evenings. Magpie cannot vouch for the others.

What an interesting year it has been for the weather ~ and for the plants and gardens too, which surprisingly seem even lusher than usual. Long cold winter (or so it seemed); late spring; the wettest June on record (almost), followed by the hottest July, and now an August which is, well, probably an average August, but we won't know till it finishes; maybe windier and stormier than usual. "The temperature in the Rectory Garden" does not have quite the same ring as the old "temperature on the Air Ministry Roof" that we used to hear about. (Have we got an Air Ministry any more, and if so, has it still got a roof?) However, the max/min. thermometer in the Rectory Garden shows a minimum temperature of -5° C at some time during the year, and a maximum of $+49^{\circ}$ C. Phew! To be fair the sensor is in almost direct sunlight half the day, and it is on a matt black wooden window frame, but that is the temperature you and Magpie would have felt if we had been sitting there. At one stage the maximum in the Rectory greenhouse went off the scale.

Lindisfarne Gospels. Greg
Forster.

One of the things we did on holiday in July was visit Durham, where the Lindisfarne Gospels are on show. They are usually kept in London, at the British Library, so this was a bit of a treat, and the Cathedral has put on an exhibition specially, drawing on their own treasures and a collection of items from around the North. To be honest, that exhibition of Saxon art and culture was more interesting than the Gospel Book itself, which was rather poorly displayed to my way of thinking ~ just one page open, which is all one could expect, but no reproductions of the other more colourful pages, except on a rather disjointed computer projection loop. I have a better selection in a 2010 calendar!

But don't get me wrong. This is a remarkable work of art, designed to emphasise the eternal value and lasting importance of the *contents* of the book ~ the Gospels themselves. In a culture which prized lavish art and decoration this is a

masterpiece which announced to the world "Christ's message is of supreme value; come and see it and listen to it!"

And the page on display was actually an important piece of scholarly study ~ a chart of how the Gospels overlap and each one complements the others. More than that (though only displayed on the projection loop) this book contains one of the earliest versions of the Gospels in English ~ to be understood by ordinary people. The original work was copied out in Latin in the early 700s AD, but a few centuries later a priest at the abbey where the book was being kept carefully wrote the English meaning between the lines of the Latin text.

As a piece of art and history this is uniquely valuable and incredibly rare; but its message is (I hope) on your shelves and in your hands, and anything but strange to you. Blessed Lord, who have caused the holy scriptures to be written for our learning; help us so to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the encouragement of the scriptures we may have hope, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Harvest on the horizon.

I suppose that for many farmers harvest is more than on the horizon, but even a past event by the beginning of September. As a general rule, nowadays, it is a lot earlier than when "Harvest Festival" was invented as a church celebration back in the mid-1800s, and even then I imagine that the rural "Harvest Home" happened whenever the harvest was home in each separate community or farm! Why waste a good chance for a celebration? So let's begin the consideration, if not the celebrations, now.

Firstly, as I have commented often before, this is a very exuberant generous world. Despite its oddities this year does appear to be producing rich harvests, in a shorter than usual growing season ~ though writing in mid-August I should be careful not to count it before it is safely gathered in. God's creation does balance itself out. But, as others have pointed out, this generosity is sufficient for human *need*, not human greed. If we in Britain have enough to throw large proportions into the waste bin (as we do) it is because others elsewhere do not have enough.

Cue ~ support organisations like Christian Aid or Tear Fund, and appreciate what we have: waste not want not, as they used to say.

Secondly, a bigger question: I heard last month (from a source that I would trust, though I can't remember who, now ~ possibly a High-Up in the National Farmers' Union) that if global trade was halted overnight, this country would only survive for a month on its own. Whether that was on its reserves, or on what it grows itself, or on its luxuries, I'm not sure, but either way it is sobering. WW2-style rationing would no doubt spread the agony longer than that, but it should make us pause to think, and to ask our politicians and planners and economists whether there is a more secure way of feeding our nation.

Cue ~ do I need to live more simply, so that others may simply live? ~ or not to expect summer fruit in December, at least.

Thirdly, appreciation and gratitude. This is something that ought to go without saying, but saying it helps. In material ways we enjoy so much, and should express our gratitude to God, as well as those around us who help provide it. Theologically this is God's "common grace" ~ his generosity to everyone in rain or shine on good and bad alike. And in spiritual terms there is so much to be grateful for too: the means of grace and the hope of glory, as the old prayer says. In it we are encouraged to show our thanks and praise not only with our lips but in the way we live our lives in serving God and other people.

Cue ~ look out those biscuits, soups, tea-bags and the like which will make practical harvest gifts for use at the Booth Centre.

