

# CONCORD *September 2014*

## Prayer for the Month

Almighty God, who have given rain and sun to all people, good and bad, rich and poor, Jew and Gentile;

We pray to you for all who suffer persecution and discrimination because of their faith and beliefs, and especially for your household the church. We pray for those who bring humanitarian relief; we pray for the restraint of those who work evil; we pray for respect and understanding between different groups, and truth and integrity in the reporting of events.

We weep with Christ over war-torn Jerusalem, and the pains of a divided world, and long for a world where people may serve and worship you without fear, in holiness and right living.

For the sake of Christ, our Prince of peace. Amen.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane. 0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

A change of plan from what I promised to write about in last month's Concord, as I explain, briefly, the cover picture. It is actually an Arabic letter ~ N ~ which stands for Nasrani. The whole display is a poster produced by the church nationally. It uses the Arabic letter, "N", which has been daubed on the homes of Christians (often called 'Nasrani' ~ Nazarenes, after Jesus of Nazareth ~ in Arabic) in Mosul to identify them as targets for persecution or execution ~ an action reminiscent of the stars daubed on Jewish homes by the Nazis. It invites churches and Christians in this country to recognise their solidarity with all Christ's people across this troubled world, emotionally and practically.

We find it difficult to understand how people can think such persecution is God's way ~ though Jesus warned his followers (in John's Gospel) that the time would come when people would indeed think they were doing God's will by killing them. We need to recognise in humility that in our own history Christians fought each other bitterly over clauses in the creed, or in our own Civil War over the status of bishops. Byzantine Christianity did not set Mohammed a good example, either. But in Islam there is a stronger tradition of political religion, given that in the last years of his life Mohammed ruled territory in Arabia, and expanded his

faith by military and diplomatic conquests. However valid his prophetic role in affirming the One-ness of God earlier in his life, in that later political setting his reaction to opposition was coloured by the politics of survival as much as religious truth and revelation. It is sad that people take this later example out of context and generalise from it to legitimise evil. Earlier he had taught his followers to respect at least other people of the book ~ Jews and Christians.

On Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> Sept. we shall be including prayers for healing and wholeness within the morning communion service at St. Wilfrid's. This is in connection with an event in Bolton that week-end led by Bishop Graham Dow, formerly Bishop of Carlisle, and now one of the retired bishops who assist in Manchester. All being well, a group of those involved in that event will be joining us, and praying with us during the communion or after the service. Details still have to be arranged, and will partly depend on how many people are involved. In any case, there will be the opportunity to pray for wholeness at that service.

Healing is a complex thing, involving not just, or not merely, "getting better", but finding peace of mind and heart, strength to cope with frailty and dis-ease, freedom from the hurts which can leave us ill at ease, and a hope which carries us beyond the limits of this world. And there is also the mystery of when prayers are not answered how we would hope. *Greg Forster*

***"We will remember them" 1914-1919***  
***The Revd. Lowry Hamilton ~ again.***

We continue the series of stories about servicemen from World War 1 who are buried or commemorated in St. Wilfrid's Church Ground, or who have strong connections with the Parish. This month I am using more material from the Parish Magazine relating to or related by Lowry Hamilton, Rector at the time and for a year an honorary Chaplain to the Forces. We can look at his story as mere history, or we can ~ and should ~ take note of his experience and example of faith under fire, his recognition of his own vulnerability, and his combination of spiritual comfort and practical help, and learn from his prayers and share them.

The earlier article on Lowry Hamilton took him to France, visiting base hospitals, and finding old friends and acquaintances ~ and playing cricket! On June 17<sup>th</sup> 1915 he writes from

Boulogne to say that he is about to be posted to join a front line division ~ he cannot say where, but it was probably near Loos-en-Gohelle, between Arras and Lille, with either the Royal West Surrey Regt., or the East Kent Regt. He recalls writing 500 letters to relatives of men ~ presumably who had died in the hospitals in the previous two months ~ and of giving holy communion to over 200 soldiers, "many of these being the most solemn moments, as I knew full well that it was the last Communion of these brave soldiers of Christ." But he can also laugh at himself. On his last day in Boulogne he had ridden to the various remount and veterinary (sic) camps for which he was responsible on Sundays, to say his farewells. They gave him a very hearty send off, and the results of their cheering nearly meant that he fell off his own, restive, horse. If he had come off, their respect for him would have fallen off!

In the following months he cannot say much about his present life and work, except that in his October letter he reports being called away five times while writing it to his field ambulance hospital to minister to wounded and dying soldiers. In a later letter, written on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1915 after an offensive, he speaks of ministering to the severely wounded and dying at the field ambulance, and of doctors working almost round the clock, missing meals and rest, from 8.30 on a Saturday morning to the following Tuesday. Comparison of the dates indicates that he was involved in the Battle of Loos, the biggest "push" up to that date, which began on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1915. He writes ...

It may interest you to know how a chaplain can be useful and what exactly he can do in a rush such as this. My doctors arranged to let me know at once the very seriously wounded cases; to these I ministered spiritually and in some cases was able to give them their Holy Communion with a very much shortened service. That was my first care, and thanks to the cooperation of the commanding officers and doctors this was made possible for me to fulfil. My next efforts were the physical needs of the wounded. Thirst and cold added to wounds. In some cases nothing had passed these men's lips for many hours and they had been lying out in heavy rain (the weather during the first day of the attack was pitilessly wet), so Bovril, cocoa or tea,

in large cauldrons, was kept going night and day, and I with two other untrained men made this our work hour after hour. The sending of field post cards to nearest relations, and in most cases having to write the addresses myself, when these ran into hundreds, is no small task. At one time, when stretcher bearers were really tired out, I lent a hand till the worst pressure was over. It is only with a feeling of great thankfulness that I did not fail in a critical time, and with no self pride, when those days and nights were <over> I was thanked by the commanding officer in his own name as also in the name of the doctors and orderlies for what I had done. "You seemed to be everywhere, yet never in anyone's way." In the little cemetery close to our ambulance those whose wounds proved fatal were laid to rest ( among them the Colonel of one of my regiments, a great personal friend) and I saw before I returned to my regiment that in all these cases these graves were marked ~ a plain oak cross, on which a metal plate is fixed, giving name, rank, regiment and date of death.

So Hamilton brought solace to the dying, wrote to the relatives of less badly injured, brewed tea, cocoa and Bovril, helped the stretcher bearers, felt the trauma, and was relieved that he did not break down himself under that strain, physical and no doubt emotional. He was soon posted elsewhere, and he comments,

I shall always count myself greatly honoured by being connected for some months with a division which has made itself famous and carried itself with honour and glory by its unfailing devotion to duty. ... Some day I will be allowed to speak openly for that division and the two regiments that I am especially sorry to lose touch with ~ and which, I am proud to say, through their officers said that they were sorry to lose their padre, that is, your absent but often present in thought and prayer for anxious hearts among you ... your affectionate Rector, *Lowry Hamilton C.F.*

In the same letter he mentions meeting up briefly with 9<sup>th</sup> Bn., Cheshire Regt., and men from Shadow Moss and from Northenden Cricket Club. He rode some distance with them on his "white charger," proud to be associated with a regiment which, he says, was so highly thought of.

In December 1915 he had 76 hours leave, and managed despite "two horribly bad crossings" to visit Northenden. He quotes a prayer which he used then in Northenden, and often used in the fields, orchards and barns of Flanders.

O Lord our God, who art in every place,  
from Whom no space or distance can ever separate;  
We know that those who are absent from each other  
are still present with Thee.

Into Thy holy care and keeping we commit our dear ones  
now parted from our sight,  
and may we know that through prayer and worship and sacrament,  
by drawing near to Thee,  
we draw near to each other. Amen.

In March 1916 he writes of ten days of severe snow, with men and horses struggling, but he begins to look forward to demobilisation. One of his ambitions before then is to set the cemetery for which he is responsible in very good order. The next month home is in sight, but he also records his own ill health, after 5 months non stop service, and that he has been ordered by his MO to take rest before returning to the parish. He also reports news of Capt. R.H.G.Tatton, whom we might regard as the "squire" of Wythenshawe, wounded but recovering. Other records show that Tatton had joined up on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1914 and was a Captain in the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, (which had fought at Loos too) and that he was wounded twice.

Hamilton was told to take time off before returning to Wythenshawe in May 1916. After a few weeks recuperation he returned to the parish. It is worth noting the comment of Annie Chandley, who lived at Rectory Cottage at the time, with her parents ~ her father was the Rector's driver and general gardener, that though he returned physically well, he seemed shaken and even subdued by his war service ~ and who can blame him. Nowadays we might call it post-traumatic stress, but then you did not talk about it much, and just soldiered on. As he had written himself, he was prevented from talking too much by official secrecy. After the war ended he again had to take time out through ill health and stress ~ being away from parish duties for about a month. This must have been a burden shared, though perhaps not fully understood, by many if not most who

had been in the trenches. In the 1920s writers like Dorothy L. Sayers allude to it as a feature in people's lives and behaviour. For Hamilton, who shared and took to heart the pains and burdens of many as his special duty, we should not be surprised.

*There is a display about the Great War in St. Wilfrid's church. A booklet giving some of the stories of those commemorated in the churchyard is also available from the church.*

Magpie ...

... did you hear the one about the fundamentalist in America (where else? ~ or is that a racist comment?) who was so incensed about gay marriage and the like that he had the verse from Leviticus which seems to outlaw it tattooed on his shoulder. He clearly had not read on a chapter or so in his bible, to find the other verse which outlaws tattoos.

... Magpie's friend Prof. Richard Dawkins, the famous atheist campaigner, got himself into hot water last month. With impeccable logic he first suggested (on his twitter-site, I believe) that to say, "X is bad, Y is worse," is not to say "X is OK" but still says "X is bad." He then amplified what he meant by illustrating it: "Date rape is bad, stranger-rape is worse." Oh, dear, he should have seen it coming. Many of his followers lacked his impeccable logic, took him to be OK-ing date rape, and roundly denounced him. To be fair, he was not, and rightly complained that people had misunderstood his lesson in logic. Perhaps Magpie can offer a better illustration; "Logic is good, wisdom is better." That does not denounce logic, but points out that there is more to life than mere rationalistic science. But then, it is a fear of the Lord that is the beginning of wisdom, which the learned professor would not, perhaps, appreciate.

... during August, Magpie understands, there was an atheist or humanist convention in Oxford. Not that he saw anything about it in the press. Perhaps it was drowned out by the bad news coming from Iraq and Gaza. That of course was and is awful, as I am sure the assembled sceptics affirmed, but they will also have taken it as grist to their mill. The atrocities performed in the name of religion are perfect ammunition for those who reject any belief in God. That is not new ~ a century before Christ the Roman poet Lucretius described the story of the

human sacrifice of Iphigenia in the myth of the Trojan War, ending, "and that's the load of evil religion can turn men to." True, but a dose of Dawkinsian logic will show that this does not disprove the reality of God. Wisdom sees how inhuman humanity can be to humankind, but does not blame God when men take his name in vain ~ that is, use him for their own ends. Christians will join with all people of good will in their horror at such abuse of religion. But, as another Roman saying goes, "Abuse does not rule out proper use."

... notes sadly that worshippers at St. Wilfrid's will be losing the services this month of Josh Stephens, who has played the organ for them with great verve over the past three years. He is moving to another post, having gained a first class degree as a result of his studies at the Royal Northern College of Music. Well done, and the best of luck for the future!

... wonders how many people have noticed the grade inflation that has hit the car industry in recent months. The new Mini, for instance, is bigger than the Maxi which was the Mini's stablemate back in the seventies (ah! those were the days), and the new Fiat Cinquecento ~ 500 ~ is big enough to be cinquemille ~ 5000!

... flew along the River Mersey on 24<sup>th</sup> August (narrowly avoiding a fine sparrowhawk that scoured the hedgerows) and saw 19 boats and twice as many people in all kinds of outlandish gear racing (or in some cases just drifting gaily with only one paddle) between Simon's Bridge and the Tatton Bridge in what is now the annual Northenden boat race. They were piped to the finish by Northenden Pipe Band, and entertained afterwards at the Crown, and at the Church Hall. Funds were raised (totals next month) for the Christie research against cancer. Well done!

### **The Library**

After the fuss about the closure of our proper library it might be worth publicising the alternative arrangements that have been made ~ at the offices of the local Housing Association opposite the Doctors' surgery on Palatine Rd. It is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 2.00 till 5.00pm, and on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10.00am till 1.00pm. There are some special activities within those hours. A selection of books is also available at the Methodist Church, when it is open, and especially on Saturday mornings.

## Blessed are ...,

The Beatitudes, as they are called, are one of the best known passages of the New Testament. "Beatitude" means blessing, and is shorthand for receiving God's favour.

Now familiarity can breed contempt, or at least can dull our realisation of what Jesus was saying when he taught his disciples to recite them (They are poetry, after all). Were they just for individuals, or did they have a wider application to community life? Or both? Look at them this way:

"The people who have God's favour are those who don't claim the high moral ground; because to them belongs the heavenly realm.

The people who have God's favour are those who bear the weight of the world's woes; because they shall receive encouragement.

<sup>5</sup> The people who have God's favour are those who don't strut the world's stage; because they will come to have a stake in the earth.

The people who have God's favour are those who go without food and drink to see justice done; because they shall be satisfied.

The people who have God's favour are those who are generous with their pity; because they shall receive mercy generously.

The people who have God's favour are those whose minds are not full of scheming; because their sight shall be full of God.

The people who have God's favour are those who peddle peace; because their godlike character will be recognised.

<sup>10</sup> The people who have God's favour are those who are hassled and hounded because they stand for justice; because to them belongs the heavenly realm.

You have God's favour whenever people malign you and hound you and tell all kinds of wicked lies against you because of me; rejoice and be glad, because your reward is great in heaven. That's how they hounded the prophets, you see, who were out ahead of you.

# 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.

Sep. 7<sup>th</sup> 9.00am ? MESSY CHURCH ?? to be confirmed. #  
**11.00am Circuit Service at Wythenshawe Forum.**  
to welcome the new Superintendent Minister ~

The Rev. Philip Peacock;

Preacher: The Rev. Keith Davies

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

14<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Mrs. Joyce Curtis

21<sup>st</sup>. 11.00am Mrs. Chris Goddard

28<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Holy Communion; The Rev. Tim Nicholls

Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> 9.00am MESSY CHURCH

11.00am Harvest Festival The Rev. Tim Nicholls.

6.30pm United Service **at Methodist Church.**

12<sup>th</sup>. 11.00am Mr. Ian Castledine

\*\* Northenden Players are beginning their season on 7<sup>th</sup>, so the Vestry and Hall are in use and a service would be interrupted.

## Community Lunches

Wed. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> ~ 12 noon till 1.30pm  
and then Wed. Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>.

(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.

**On Sat. 27<sup>th</sup> Sept., 9am – 3pm, and Sun. 28<sup>th</sup>, 12.30 – 3pm**

**The annual Revival Convention will take place, led by the Rt. Rev. Innocent Ordu, Bishop of Evo, Port Harcourt.**

- Sep. 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Family Communion and ? Parade Service.  
6.30pm United Service **at St. Wilfrid's**
- 14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion and Prayers for Healing.  
6.30pm Evening Worship.
- 21<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evening Worship
- 28<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Prayer  
6.30pm Holy Communion (1662)
- Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> 10.30am **Harvest Festival and Guest Service**  
6.30pm United Service at Northenden Methodist Ch.
- 12<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion **St. Wilfrid's Day.**  
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.

**Heritage Open Days, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Sept. See Diary entry.**

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all happening!



The next **Women's Group** will be on 1<sup>st</sup> September, at 7.45 for 8.00pm in the Rectory. Programme open.

and the next **Bible Study** on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept., 8pm in the Rectory.

**Farmers' & Street Market, Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. 10am .....**

**Heritage Open Days at St. Wilfrid's ~**

**Sat. 13<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon - 5.30pm & Sun. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2.00 - 6.00 p.m.**

Climb the tower, ring the bells, look into your family history, ... displays about the First World War, local events, churchyard botany, Christian faith, ... ..

Bible Studies 8.00pm in the Rectory on 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Sept.

The next **PCC** meeting will be at 7.30pm on **18<sup>th</sup>** Sept. in the Hall.

Wed. 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. Meditation in Church on the Glories of Creation ~ **7.30pm** ... Music, poetry, pictures, prayer and praise.

Note that the Harvest Festival Service, on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct. at 10.30am, will be followed by a light lunch, in Church. Bring yourself, and food enough for half a person!

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Women's Group meeting in Rectory, 7.45pm  
Details to be arranged later.

No Bible Study is planned for 8<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Registers ...

**Baptisms ~ on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August ...**

Lucy Madeleine Scott ...

And by the Rt. Rev. Evans Ibeagaha ...

Olivia Chisom Nwafor.

**In Memoriam;**

Joanne O'Mahoney (Calder Av.) 40, Jean Scarr (St. Hilda's Rd.) 84

Peter Hoyland (Heyridge Dr.) 81, David McGrath (82).

Marjorie and Albert Bracegirdle (Heald Green) 89 & 93.

(Mr. & Mrs. Bracegirdle's ashes were interred together at the end of July. When I came to receive the paperwork I discovered that I had wrongly called her Margaret. My apologies to their family)

**A request ...**

If anyone would like to donate a tin of Hammerite Smooth Black paint (or the money towards it ~ £14.99 at Quidds In) I will undertake to try to paint the church railings and gates, which are beginning to look very shabby. I imagine it will be a long slow job and take quite a lot of tins of paint! Equally, if anyone wants to buy their own tin and come along and paint a stretch, they'd be more than welcome!

Sue Forster

**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