

CONCORD ~ April 2013

Prayer for the Month

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy made the disciples of our Lord Jesus
glad when they met him risen from the grave;
give us such an awareness of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened,
sustained and inspired by his risen life,
and so may serve you continually in righteousness and integrity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord himself. Amen.

Based on the Alternative Service Book prayer for the Sunday after Easter.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane. 0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

Firstly, and most importantly, happy Easter (and not just the day, but the whole season and beyond!). This is the most important event in the Christian calendar, and not only a time for celebration but also something which should shape our whole attitude to life. We are not just talking about an unexpected outcome of what seemed a tragic story way back in history. This is an event which holds a promise for us all. It is something for us to latch on to, which will transform what can be a life of humdrum routine, or of difficulties and troubles, into something in which there is hope, with a promise of a bright outcome for all of us who place our confidence in the Christ who rose from among the dead.

But read on ... about Easter, and events in our churches and in the village.

Greg 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 Sue Shaw at the Central Manchester Office, 834-5797

Northenden Methodist Church

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

Sunday Services.

*1st Sunday **most** months*

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

Please note these changes in the Messy Church schedule, which have been made in order to avoid the school/bank holidays which fall at the beginning of April, May and June.

The next three sessions will be on Sundays **28th April, 19th May and 16th June.**

For future dates, if there is a bank holiday in the offing, check with Amy.

Apr. 7th

11.00am Mrs Joyce Curtis
6.30pm United Service at St.Wilfrid's

14th 11.00am The Rev. David Bown

21st 11.00am Mr. Duncan Rutter

28th 9.00am Messy Church
11.00am Mr. John Harrison

May 5th

11.00am The Rev. Gill Newton
6.30pm United Service; the Rev. David Bown

12th 11.00am The Rev. D. Bown. **General Church Meeting.**

Community Lunch

Wed., ~ 10th April, 12 noon till 1.30pm
 (Next lunch, Wed. May 8th ~ 12 noon till 1.30pm)

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. The April meeting on 9th is the Annual Meeting, with committee elections and reports. Its **website** is < www.northendencivicsociety.org >. It also has a **Facebook** site: < www.facebook.com/NorthendenCivicSociety > ~ or access it via the website.

Luke chapter 24 ~ "He's Alive!"

St. Luke's account of Jesus's resurrection begins where the other gospels begin, with the discovery of an empty grave, with its capstone rolled back, by a group of women. Not unnaturally they are thrown by this, and their puzzlement is only partly resolved when two men in dazzling clothes accost them with the question, "why are you looking in a grave for someone who is alive?" It is no surprise either that when they tell all this to Jesus's disciples it sounds like a bad joke, and they are not believed.

The bible is insistent that despite what Jesus had said before his death, his resurrection was not anticipated or readily accepted by his followers; it was not a case of wish fulfilment or wishful thinking, but hard-nosed and depressed realists taking some convincing.

When you read on in Luke Ch. 24 you come to a story which is almost unique to Luke (I say almost, because it is referred to in the fly-sheet tagged on at the end of Mark's Gospel). On what we call Easter day two of Jesus followers ~ one Cleopas, possibly his uncle, ~ head out 7 miles to where they are staying at a place called Emmaus. Luke's story brings out their sense of desolation clearly; Jesus meets them, incognito, and they explain to him their dashed hopes. He in turn warms their hearts as he explains what the Old Testament had foretold about him, and what it meant. With classic eastern hospitality they invite him in when they get home, and, still incognito, he thanks God for the meal and breaks bread. Suddenly they recognise him and he takes his leave

They are convinced enough of his reality that immediately they run back all the way they have just trudged, to tell their

friends. Is it Luke's sense of humour that the friends' response is "Oh, yes, we know, we've seen him too."?

Within the story, I suspect, Luke is pointing to ways in which his readers miles from Palestine in first century Greece, and we, centuries later, can also encounter Jesus ~ as we study the scriptures, and as we meet to break bread together in his name.

The chapter ends as Jesus himself is there among them, and again, within the story, Luke is answering questions and challenges Was he real, or just a ghost? Well, they touched him, and he shared a snack with them. What did it all mean? Well, look at the Old Testament ~ at the verses, no doubt, which surface throughout the New Testament as texts about him. But read it yourself !

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.

Also on Thursdays there is a communion service, at 10am.

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 (Jan.6th, Feb. 3rd. &c.)

The Nigerian Anglican "Restoration" Congregation now meets weekly at **12.30pm** for about 2 hours in St.Wilfrid's Church.

The service includes traditional and modern music.

Apr. 7th 10.30am Holy Communion ("standard" service)
6.30pm United Service at St.Wilfrid's

14th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

21st 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

28th 10.30am Morning Worship (shortened)
(followed by the church's Annual Meeting)
6.30pm Holy Communion

May 5th 10.30am Family Communion
6.30pm United service @ Methodist Church

*Thurs. May 9th 7.30pm **Ascension Day** Service at St. Wilfrid's
For the whole of Withington Deanery*

12th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship.

Note two other events in the Deanery ~ the licensing of Stephen Edwards as Area Dean, in Wm. Temple Church, 28th Apr., 6.30pm; and of Bryan Hackett as Vicar of Brooklands, 3pm on May 12th.

Drop in on St. Wilfrid's ...

**On Sundays from 2.30 till 5.15pm
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 will be in June ~ with displays and the opportunity to climb the tower.

The Parish Registers -

In Memoriam ...



Doris Nadin (Lee Court) 93, Alan Owen (ex Hollyway) 64,
Evelyn Cheetham (Heald Green), Stanley Pilkington
(Bucklow Dr.) 67, Douglas Farwell (Poynton) 96.

Baptisms;

On Sunday 17th March in the Parish Church ...

Maisy Erina McIvor, Sophia Rose Bond,
Noah Gethin Bowpitt.

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all

happening!



- Note the Farmers' Market on Sat. Apr. 6th in the village.*
- Wed. 10th Apr. Bible Study, 8.00pm; Rectory.
- Sat. 13th Coffee Morning (Joanne McNiven) 10.00am ...
in aid of Manchester Children's Hospice.
- Mon. 15th Women's Group. 7.45 for 8.00pm Rectory
Gisela Feldman, ... the holocaust. See panel
- Wed. 17th Bible Study, as above
- Sat. 27th Coffee Morning, 10.00 – 11.30am Church Hall.
- Sun. 28th Church Annual Meeting ca. 11.30am in Church.
- Mon. 29th School Governors.
- Wed. 1st May Bible Study ~ as above.
- Thu. 2nd Church Council Meeting. 7.30pm Church Hall
Again, note the Farmers' Market in the village, Sat. 4th May.
- Tue. 7th Archdeacon's Visitation; St. Matthew's Stretford,
7.30pm ~ for swearing in of Church officers, &c.
- Mon. 13th Women's Group, 7.45 for 8.00pm Rectory
- Wed. 15th Bible Study, ~ as above.

Women's Group

Please note the dates of both the April and the May meetings are not regular ~ to avoid bank holidays and to fit in with the speaker's diary.

On 15th April our speaker will be talking from her own experience about the Holocaust.

On 13th May no speaker has yet been booked.

Further ahead, there will be no meeting in June.

But for all meetings you are most welcome, even if you have not been before; there is no formal membership ~ just turn up!

Magpie ...

... congratulates Dorothy Rowley on reaching her hundredth birthday, back in February. Well done, ... and counting!

... still flies round *That Building* from time to time. It seems to be registered as No 1 Church Rd., even though the entrances are on the Palatine Rd. side of the place. It was discussed at the Wythenshawe Area Committee of the Council on 14th March, and that committee decided it was a matter that needed the wisdom of the full Planning Committee to reach a decision ~ so they kicked it upstairs, as it were, to a meeting on 18th April.

... notes with sadness the passing of the Lunch Club at St. Wilfrid's Church Hall. It has been a feature of village life for at least 40 years, and was still a valued meeting place for a number of residents ~ though to be honest, it was far fewer than the 60+ who used to meet in the 1970s and '80s, with their food being prepared by two cooks working on site. Like other things it is a casualty of Council cutbacks, and had outlasted a number of other such clubs around the City. In the last few years there has been just one cook, serving food that had been bused in from a central kitchen.

... talking of cuts, the local action group trying to keep our Library open continues with its campaign, and is liaising with similar groups across the city. 2-300 people marched through the village on March 2nd; a week later there was a gathering outside the Library, but because there was a rumour of a sit-in the place had been closed, much to the annoyance of people who wanted to return and take out books. There is a consultation going on about how the library service will be reshaped. That finishes on 17th April, but since the Council's budget was set on 8th March this may seem rather like moving the proverbial deck chairs on the Titanic ~ and if we do win out, who else may suffer?

... The Rector tells Magpie that the last time he used the library to any great extent it was to see what it had to say about the Peterloo protest of 1819. The librarians very helpfully found several extra books on the subject from store. It is ironic that the Council, which puts up plaques to the Peterloo protesters, and would no doubt see itself as their heirs, is now afraid of a couple of dozen mums and pensioners when they voice their protests together. One of the people imprisoned after Peterloo ~ Joseph Johnson ~ came to live in Ravenswood, just opposite where our library now is. What would he have thought? we wonders.

... "The production of too many useful things," pontificated Karl Marx, "results in too many useless people." He may have got something there, if you think about it. In similar vein; a financial wizard is someone who lives within his means.

... primates must be like buses; you wait ten years and then two come along in one week, first a Pope and then an ABC. But seriously, what do you think of the new Pope? Magpie asked the Rector, whose first reaction was that it was not his business to

evaluate Popes, especially after just one week's trial. But then he shared a day-dream. Novelist Morris West (in *The Shoes of the Fisherman*) imagined a Pope Kyril, from behind the Iron Curtain, who slipped out of the Vatican back door, and had to beg for the coffee he bought in the Trastevere bar, and then found himself asked to give last rights to a tenement hobo. *What ~ the Rector had mused while he should have been concentrating on the service he was taking at least a week before the cardinals went into secret session ~ what if the new Pope did turn out a bit like that? What if he turned up for his enthronement dressed in a Franciscan brown habit, with no glad-rags? What if ...? Maybe 'here's hoping' ... !*

Wythenshawe F.M. broadcasts in the neighbourhood ~ local news, music, views, diary events ... Tune in to 97.2 FM., or you can also listen online at < [www . wfmradio . org](http://www.wfmradio.org) >

St. Wilfrid's Church ~ annual meeting,
28th April

St. Wilfrid's AGM will take place after a shortened morning service on Sun. 28th April in church. There will be elections, for Churchwardens (2) for PCC members (up to 14!) and for sidesmen (any number) ~ so get nominating, on the clip-boards in church. There will be reports, on the state of the church and the state of our buildings and the state of the PCC and other church bodies. We also look forward to a report on the church finances; we are running at a deficit, though there are some reserves to cover that for the moment. But a warning: we have lost some Hall income.

St. Wilfrid's Church ~ envelopes /
planned giving

The church planned giving scheme is accounted for on the same basis as the tax year ~ April to March ~ and so new envelopes are due to be issued now. The first Sunday of the new year is 7th April. If you are already in the scheme we hope to have your envelopes ready and out to you by then. If you are not in the scheme but would like to be, have a word with Mrs. Morgan, Miss Sundar or the Rector. Instead of envelopes some people use a bank standing order and forms are available in church to set one up. Forms are also available if you are willing to "gift aid" your offerings ~ so long as you pay tax after April's coding changes.