

CONCORD ~ AUGUST 2011

Prayer for the Month ...

Lord of Creation, Lord of the Harvest,
We thank and praise you for the generosity
we see in the world you have given us;
We confess to you the greed and exploitation
we know of on the earth around us;
We lift to you the needs of the poor and the rich,
in this "spaceship Earth",
for we all share its limited resources
and experience its strains and stress.
Grant mankind the wisdom and humility to use your gifts aright,
with justice and restraint.
For your honour's sake. Amen.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.
0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

In my letter last month I shared my thoughts about cheques. I can hardly claim the credit, however, for the announcement which came only a week or so after July's Concord hit your doormats. Yes, cheques have been reprieved, and will go on, unchecked, for the foreseeable future and beyond. I am very glad, for the sake of the church and for charities which I am involved with, but also for the majority of the people of this country, who may not be writing as many cheques as we used to, but who still find a cheque the easiest and most secure way of making irregular payments. We have lost the "guarantee card" scheme, which now seems even more unfair and petty. Perhaps they will consider reinstating that too.

During July we were asked by Christian Aid to hold a "retiring collection", as it is called, in aid of the relief work going on in the face of the severe drought in horn of Africa ~ Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia. I have sent off a cheque for £50 as a result of that collection, and hope that we can send more. If you want to contribute directly, their address is PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT.

The News seems full of two things at the moment. Perhaps it is not full enough of the third ~ the drought that I have

just mentioned and the probably related prior issue of climate change. The crisis in Values reflected in the phone hacking scandal is one of them. Even that seems sometimes to be a crisis manufactured so that one politician can score a point off another, or settle old scores with the media/police/etc. (delete as appropriate.)

I hope that the investigations we are promised will take stock of the moral issues raised ~ not just whether it is right to intercept someone else's messages, or even whether some police have taken back-handers or been too cosy with the media, but what kind of a society we are ~ what kind of people we are, if we expect to be entertained with stories of celebrities' sins or victims' sufferings. (And entertained is the right word here, since we hardly *need to know* about them. If we have an ounce of empathy we will appreciate the victims' feelings anyway.) And how can this canker in the community be cut away?

But the bigger news ~ the news that is truly the bigger story, though it may not get so many column inches (or whatever the TV equivalent measure is) ~ is financial and economic. One half of me is anxious about threatened financial crises in Europe, which will surely affect us if the threat comes true, of course. But the other half wonders whether there is actually some good that might come out of it, in a back-handed kind of way. It is not simply that we ~ it could be individuals with our credit cards, or nations with our national debts ~ are spending more than we earn, and borrowing more than we can repay. We humans are taking more from God's Earth than it is providing in terms of raw materials, fuels and food. We gear our economies to "Growth" and think we can "Grow" ourselves out of the problem by expanding further and so using up more. Is this not a kind of idolatry? Would it actually be a kindness in the long term if we were made to use less? But could we cope with the social turmoil that would bring? It's a frighteningly big question. Perhaps that's why people prefer celebrity peccadilloes in their newspapers.

Greg Forster

The Children's Society ...

... has a charity shop at 356 Palatine Rd.

Normal opening hours are 9.00am – 5.00pm.,

with a range of Good-as-New goods, especially books.

There is also a selection of new, end-of-run, wallpapers.

Volunteers are needed; contact Ursula, the manager, on 945-7384

Northenden Methodist Church

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

Sunday Services.

Aug. 7th 11.00am Mrs. Kathryn Price
 6.30pm Evening worship at St. Wilfrid's

14th 11.00am Northenden Preaching Team.

21st 11.00am Holy Communion. The Revd. G. Barnard,

28th 11.00am Mrs Sarah Hooks

Sep. 4th 11.00am Morning Worship -details to be announced
 6.30pm Evening Worship at Northenden

And watch out for Messy Church ~ before the 11am service on the first Sunday of the month.

11th 11.00am Morning Worship.

Community Lunch

Wed. 12 noon - 1.30pm
... August details to be announced

Fun Bingo

Last Saturday of the Month (27th), 12.00 noon - 2.00pm.
(to be confirmed in weekly notices)

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. 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 on July 31st and Aug. 7th & 14th.

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 between 10.30 and 11.30am Sundays ...

... except when there is a Family Service in church. Both of
these groups are closed for the "Six-weeks" Holiday.

Jul. 31 st	10.30am Morning Worship	(NB no 8.00am)
	6.30pm Evening Worship	
Aug. 7 th	10.30am Family Communion	(NB no 8.00am)
	6.30pm United Service at St. Wilfrid's	
14 th	10.30am Morning Worship	(NB no 8.00am)
	6.30pm Evening Worship	
21 st	10.30am Morning Worship	
	6.30pm Evening Worship	
28 th	10.30am Morning Worship	
	6.30pm Evening Worship	
Sep. 4 th	10.30am Family Communion	
	6.30pm United Service at Methodist Church	
11 th	10.30am Morning Worship	
	6.30pm Evening Worship.	

Drop in ...

**On Sundays from 2.00 till 5.00pm the church is open,
for private prayer, for enquiries, or just to look around.**

And note the full Open Week End, on Sat./Sun. Sept. 10th/11th.
with tower trips, displays &c. marking the national Heritage w/e

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all happening!

July

Sat. 30th **Cream Tea, 2.00 till 4.00pm.**

August.

Sat. 6th Again, remember the Farmers' Market.

No bible studies till September.

PCC meeting ... will be announced if we arrange one for August.

Saturday 27th Aug. 10.00am ... Church Hall.

The Rector invites you to take Morning Coffee with him.

Sunday 28th 1.00pm The Boat Race ~ **on the Mersey**

**An event for the whole village,
to raise funds for Christie Hospital.**

**The Church will be open as usual, 2.00 – 5.00pm
with the additional perk of trips up the tower.**

Sat. 3rd September ~ Remember the Farmers'
(and others') Market. 9.30am to 3.30pm (-ish!)

Sat. 10th & Sun. 11th Sept., 12.00 noon to 5.00pm.

Heritage Open Days ~

St. Wilfrid's will be open, with trips up the tower and displays of past and present (and future?) Northenden, as part of this national event.

As I mentioned last month, it was almost a year ago that I introduced the Ven. Dr. Gideon Ilechukwu, who is a medical doctor working in this area, but is also a cleric from the Anglican Church in Nigeria. Since then we have been trying to get a formal license for him to take a full part in leading worship here in this country. This proved harder than it should have. However, permission finally come through in July, and he can now lead our Eucharistic worship at St. Wilfrid's, as he did for the first time on 17th July, and preach.

GSF

THE CHURCH HALL FOR PARTIES ? GSF

The renovation of the church hall kitchen did take place in July, as expected, though confusion over the job specification, and the discovery of wet rot in the outer wall, has left it apparently unfinished. This will be dealt with soon. It is nevertheless a far more pleasant place to work in now. As I mentioned last month, we

are grateful to the Manchester Airport Community Fund and to the City Council through their "CAS:H" / "U-Decide" scheme for making this possible, and to A & S Kitchens of Chorlton, and Steve of D & S Home Improvements, for the work.

Meanwhile, can I remind you again that the hall is available as a community resource for hiring. You will already know of the Lunch Club for pensioners ~ 11.30am on weekdays; try it if you are eligible. There is also a drop-in for Mothers and Toddlers on Tuesday mornings in term time. Our own Brownies use it on Mondays, and the Scramblers on Sundays, again during school terms. A number of other people use it on a fairly regular basis for sports training, meetings and events. It has also been used a couple of times recently as a "crèche" area for younger children during weddings, and for Drama rehearsals. Can I highlight how it is available for Parties. Talk to me if you are interested, to see when it is available and what it would cost, for a party or for a regular event. (0161 998-2615)

The Parish Registers –

In Memoriam ...

Janet McIsaac (Yew Tree Ave) 63.

Married, on 2nd July ...

Gillian Smith to Darren Mark Butterfield

... on 9th July ...

Gemma-Leanne O'Hara to Paul George Fleming

... and on Sunday 17th July ...

Bac Thi Le to Amir Farzaneh.

Baptised ... on Sunday 17th July ...

Molly & Lily Roberts.

Adam Michael Percival, Layla Emma Bennett,
Isabella Iris Hazlehurst, Grace Isabelle Guite

Baptisms.

For a long time we have done Baptisms on the third Sunday of a month. Recently several families asked for a baptism on a bank holiday Sunday, for family to travel from distant parts of

the country more easily. This seems to make sense, and I have begun holding such services at bank holidays, not third Sundays, in some months. I plan to continue this flexibility.

One of the keys of a baptism service is when the whole church is asked to support the candidates and to welcome them into the church's regular life. We do that liturgically with formal words of welcome, but it should not just be a matter of liturgy, but of meaningful action whether by the way people are greeted at these services, or through Scramblers and other church activities. We're all in this together. With the help of God we will!

Women's Group.

Nothing in August. We restart on Sept.5th . Speaker t.b.a.
SDF

Magpie...

... will be interested in what happens at the City Planning Committee meeting on 28th July. In June they actually threw back the request for retrospective planning permission for the increased height and reduced parking in the tower block on Church Rd. In July they will look at it again, in the light of a report on what might be done. Watch not so much this space as the Evening News.

Northenden in Transition?

Greg Forster

Last year I wrote about a film talking about "transition towns" ~ communities which were taking seriously the growing problems of the shortage of fuel, food, water and the like. There is a group which is looking at these issues with particular reference to Northenden, and what might be done here. I hope to write more about this in September ~ around "Harvest" ~ or perhaps to preach on the topic, but meanwhile Mark Roughan (998-0934) is convening this group. Contact me or him if you are interested.