

CONCORD

JANUARY 2007



Cover Picture; by John Hill-Wilson, shows the South Door, now closed permanently by the new toilets, at St. Wilfrid's Church, and symbolises the open doorway to the new year.

Prayers for the Month,

Sovereign Lord of time and eternity,
of this world and the next
as the years turn and time rolls ever on,
may we your people and church be a beacon of hope
in a hopeless world,
for you are the heart for this heartless world,
the medicine for all its peoples.
So may we bear witness
to the hope that you have set before us,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Saviour. *Amen*

**Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane,
0161 998 – 2615**

Dear Friends,

Thank you to everyone involved in distributing Concord last year, and best wishes to you, and indeed to all readers, for 2007.

Best wishes, and prayers, to you all for this new year. You may know the double edged Chinese wish (or is it curse?) *May you live in interesting times*. This year bodes to be “interesting”, I fear. My prayer is that we live in times which, if not *uninteresting*, unstimulating and boring, are interesting for good reasons! Our prayers should certainly be for the high court of Parliament, and all ministers of the Crown for this coming year. (see page 6)

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the toy service in December – the toys were passed via Longsight Social Services and other similar agencies to needy children. So too the soups, warm clothing &c have been passed on to Wood St. mission or the Booth Centre for the benefit of Manchester’s street people, as have the proceeds of the Folk concert - £110.

It is perhaps a little late to comment on whether *Christmas* was squeezed out of the celebrations and decorations in December. Apparently the reason why our Northenden lights were rather insipid last month was partly that the lamp standards now belong to Amey, not the City, and also that the old décorations were unsafe and had to be changed. Two stars, yes ~ but the rest looked rather like horns of economic plenty. As for the place of

Trees in Christmas ... don't ask. Are they English? Perhaps. German? Certainly. Christian? Questionably!

I used a prayer at the head of this letter which actually echoes the grudging acknowledgement by Karl Marx that Christianity has got something which his secularism lacked; a message of heart and hope and healing. That message is as relevant this new year as we face ecological problems and significant changes in economic power across the world as it was in Marx's troubled 19th century.

There *is* a God, who values his creation, so that there is a meaning to it; a meaning we tap into as we come to know and trust him. He shows us how much he values us through having shared our human life in Christ. He is as concerned about social injustice as Marx was, without offering hatred and violence as the failed means of redressing it. He offers reconciliation through Christ's death, and a promise of life beyond this life. In *this* hope we can approach 2007 with confidence. ,Greg Forster

Northenden Methodist Church.

Palatine Road.

**Minister: the Revd. David Bown,
5 Kenworthy Lane, Northenden, M 22 4 JF
0161 998 – 2158**

Sunday Services.

7th Jan. 11.00am Mr. Duncan Rutter
 5.30pm United Service at St. Wilfrid's
14th 11.00am Holy Communion; The Rev. D. Bown
21st. 11.00am **Circuit Service at Brownley Green Church.**
 No Service at Northenden.
28th 11.00am The Rev. Malcolm Purdy

COMMUNITY LUNCH ... ~

12.00noon – 1.30pm
on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.(10th & 24th)

Magpie ...

... has heard they are talking about adopting double British Summer Time. But does that mean we will get double British

Summer Weather to go with it? If so, is that twice as much Sun in July, or twice as much rain in August? ~ Or bees in December.

... and talking about bees, apparently bumble bees are warm blooded, which is why they have fur coats. You didn't know that, did you? It wasn't April 1st when I was told it, either.

St. Wilfrid's Church,

Ford Lane. (Off Church Rd.)

Rector: Greg Forster (998-2615)

Organist: Arthur Mellor (928-0472)

[www . stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk](http://www.stwilfridsnorthenden.org.uk)



Services:

Communion on Sundays at 8.00am, and Thursdays at 10.00am

There is a "Sunday Club" for 7 – 11+ year olds in the Rectory at 10.30am, for about an hour, and ...

A Sunday School, for children from 3½ to 6+, meets in the Church Hall from 10.30 till about 11.30am., except when there is a Family Service (for parents and children together) in Church.

7 th Jan. 2007	10.30am	Family Communion (Epiphany)
	5.30pm	United Evening Worship.
14 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
	5.30pm	Evening Worship
21 st	10.30am	Holy Communion
	5.30pm	Evening Worship
28 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
	5.30pm	Holy Communion (1662)
4 th Feb.	10.30am	Family Communion & Parade service
		<i>time to be confirmed</i> United Service at Methodist Church.

Times of evening services at St. Wilfrid's have changed as an experiment from 6.30 to 5.30pm during January. Will this fit more conveniently into people's timetables, so that you can come more easily? Please let us know (by coming or saying!)

Sue Writes ...

Thank you all very much for your Christmas cards and good wishes, and I wish you all a happy New Year.

I have given up the unequal struggle with cards, and sent a donation to Send-a-Cow in lieu ~ so if you did not hear from us that's the reason. With best wishes Sue Forster

***The church is open each Sunday from 1.45 – dusk,
for prayer, visiting, enquiries, &c.***

"It's all happening ..." ~ For your Diaries

No Coffee Morning or Women's Group this month.

Wed. 10th. 8.00pm Rectory; Bible Study (Epiphany)

Weds. 17th, 24th, 31st. Bible Studies, Rectory, 8.00pm

Thu. 25th **PCC** Church Hall, 7.30pm

Sat. 3rd Feb Coffee Morning, 10am ... Church Hall

Mon. 5th Women's Group, Rectory, 8pm (to be confirmed)

THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING ... 1/3/07

Put a note in your diaries for Thurs. 1st March 2007. We shall be hosting a concert at 7.30pm by a group of Russian singers who call themselves *Lyra*, and who are all graduates of music academies in St. Petersburg. More details to follow.

CHURCH FEES, 2007.

The Archbishops' Council controls the fees charged for weddings, funerals and the like in C/E churches across England, and they have, as usual, increased them from 1st Jan. this year. The basic charge for a funeral in church is now £93, plus the local fees for music &c. (= £158), and the basic charge for a wedding is £240, plus local fees, banns and the certificate (= £332.50). In each case variations in what you ask for might alter this ~ videos, banns elsewhere, &c. A table of fees is on show in church, or ask the Rector for fuller details of these fees or of charges for a burial in the churchyard. A fee is also charged for installing or altering a monument in the churchyard, but this varies widely depending on what you are having done.

From the Registers ...

In Memoriam ...

Mary Melling (Compstall), June Rooney (ex Patterdale Rd) 65,

Toilets update ~ church and hall: *Greg Forster*

In the hall the work on the toilets was completed a couple of months ago, but the lift is still on order.

The Church toilets have been up and running now for almost a month. I need to be careful how I describe them, for fear of writing some hideous, scatological pun without realising it. (dare I say that it is much to everyone's relief that the work is finally finished?) We did not have a grand gala opening, but the facilities have been well and truly tested, and many unguided tours have taken place as well!

As part of the job we opened up the old drainage system from the church downspouts. It proved quite a saga, but seems to be working now, at least partly, with no standing water in the gulleys around the church, despite some truly testing rainstorms in December..

St. Wilfrid's School ~ our day out. *Greg Forster*

"Are you going to see the Queen, then?" joked the taxi driver when we told him we were on the way to London. "Not exactly – we're going to Parliament. It's the next best thing."

And so we were, as part of a delegation from Wythenshawe to tell the All Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group about Dig Northenden. We sat in on the whole meeting; verdict ~ "boring." That was a shame, because it was Hungary's answer to Indiana Jones trying to get help to recover looted treasure! But then we were on; Mike Farrelly from the Regen Team described the purpose of the project, which is not just simple digging for history, but trying to create a greater sense of belonging in the whole area, and to bring money and development into it. Then Louise Edwards, year 5/6 teacher introduced our bit, and the children gave the commentary and showed their own drawings to accompany a slide show of the actual digging. They won a hearty round of applause from the

committee and others there, who included some of the top rank Archaeologists in the whole country

The Group may well visit us here next summer, when we hope there will be a similar project in the grounds of Wythenshawe Hall.

Afterwards Lord Redesdale, one of the Group, offered to show us the house of Lords in action, and we were ushered into the special gallery for Peers' guests. Time was at a premium, but we managed to see five minutes or so of a discussion on Iraq. Forget your knockabout Prime Minister's Questions; here were serious people discussing a serious situation with wisdom and courteous concern, in magnificently ornate surroundings. I found it very moving.

Time, as I said, was at a premium, and our own MP, Paul Goggins escorted us out through Parliament's special gate to Westminster Tube Station. We reached Euston, and our Manchester train, with a minute to spare through the rush hour squash. Earlier Mr. Goggins had recalled how the first time he spoken at Parliament, on behalf of Church Action on Poverty, had been in the very same committee room 19 that we used.

Churchyard ~ a note. Greg Forster

In last month's Concord I mentioned that I had found some bones in the course of the trenching for the new drainage system. These have now been decently re-interred just outside the (now blocked) South Porch door.

Digging for History Greg Forster

None of the photos which I took of the trenches for the new or old drains will come out very well in Concord, but I will put the best on show at an open day, perhaps. But what did we find, apart from the Georgian brick drains mentioned last month?

Adrian went over some of the spoil with a metal detector, but apart from a few nails from roof work the only interesting thing he found was a metal disc, about the size of a £2 coin, which seemed to be of something like pewter, and had a punch-mark on one side ~ quite a puzzle.

There were some bits of pottery, mostly Victorian, I reckon, and broken clay pipes from the same period or possibly earlier. (the equivalent of the fag-ends on the surface near the door. Did our ancestors or their kids sit around as they do today, or did the grave-digger take a breather and snap his pipe in error?)

As expected, the ancient boundary bank of the churchyard was discernable, as a faint change in the colour of the soil, a yard or so down the west path towards the arched gate, but there was nothing to date it. Outside this there was no old bone. Beyond the gate the compact grave "bedrock" was only a foot or so down.

We found some rusty old electric cable conduits, suggesting that once upon a time the churchyard, and The Church Path, were lit up from the church. And there was a coffin plate, complete with baize backing, but free of any timber or immediate burial, bearing the name Robert Bancroft, 1802.