

CONCORD

THE MAGAZINE FOR CHRISTIANS IN NORTHENDEN, PRODUCED BY THE
PARISH CHURCH, IN CONJUNCTION WITH NORTHENDEN METHODIST
CHURCH AND THE WYTHENSHAW MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF
FRIENDS.



J U L Y 2007 35P

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Cover Picture; One of Kathryn's pictures, showing the devastation following the Tsunami in the Solomons ~ see page 3.

Prayer for the Month. – for Jerusalem originally, but with all Palestine/Israel in mind ~ from Psalm 122 v6ff.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem,
"May they prosper that love you!
Peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers!"
For my brethren and companions' sake
I will say, "Peace be within you!"
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God
I will seek your good. **Amen.**

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane, 0161 998 – 2615

Dear Friends,

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem". One thing is clear, that the Holy Land is in an unholy mess, as is a large part of the Middle East. I have views about it all, but will not voice them now. I simply commend to you the prayer from the psalms printed above; that we should pray for the wellbeing of all people and peoples in that part of the world, commending to God those held hostage, those suffering fear, danger, injury or deprivation because of what is happening. Praying too for his blessing on the peace-makers, and for the frustration of evil and malice.

When praying about all that in Church I often speak about "respect" between antagonistic communities. I believe this is vital, and

not just in middle eastern politics. Our own communities could well do with it too. Respect means a mature re-cognition that other people have hopes and plans and interests and that even if they are different from mine they deserve to be heard and understood, just as my interests have a claim to be heard on the opposite side. Different hopes and plans impinge on Northenden. It is a poorer and sadder place if we try to resolve differences simply by shouting louder or imposing solutions from outside. This may not leave everyone achieving their own aims, but it will, I hope, mean that we understand each other as people

Last month the RC Archbishop in Scotland provoked a furore by suggesting that RC MPs or MSPs ought not to vote in favour of Abortion. (I simplify!) What is the church doing interfering in politics? They should stick to religion, and not use emotive language (like "Dunblane") into the bargain! (It might upset people) There are three errors in that line of thinking.

1. Politics is not to do with morals, but is just "the art of the possible". On the contrary, politics is the application of corporate morality (or perhaps sometimes, shared immorality). It may have to be pragmatic at times, but the politics that pretends morals are irrelevant is a dangerous thing.

2. Religion is not to do with morals, but is just about what colour robes to wear on St. Whosit's day. How wrong can you get! God is Lord of all the earth, not just of the altar frontal, and our worship of him is expressed in the way we behave towards our fellow human beings, as individuals or as a community, even if the secular world wants to ghettoise us. And that does not just mean telling them to believe in God, but also telling them how he values their humanity and how that value is to be lived out.

3. Abortion is just a procedure. That is the biggest error of all, perhaps. It was frightening to hear "pro-choice" activists complaining about the way the archbishop was bringing in emotion and personal concerns into the equation. It was not that they were dehumanising the foetus. They did not appear to think of it as human in the first place. For the archbishop the unborn child is very much human, so it is not "emotive language" to talk about Dunblane, but rather he is telling it like it is, as he understands the matter. (And the mother too is human, and will have human reactions even if the campaigners do not fit that into their world-view either). Agree with him or not, the archbishop is right to treat this as a human, moral issue, not just a technical one.

Yours sincerely, 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.

1 st July	11.00am	Morning Worship
8 th July	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	United Evening Worship (Holy Communion) at St. Wilfrid's (NB date.)
15 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
22 nd	11.00am	Morning Worship
29 th	11.00am	Morning Worship

COMMUNITY LUNCHESES ... ~

12.00 noon – 1.30pm

on the 2nd. and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

~ Wed. 11th and Wed. 25th (cold buffet)

Fun Bingo: Sat. 28th July at 12 noon till 2.00pm

Life begins at 60 ...

... that's the excuse, anyway. David celebrated this milestone in June with a cream tea on the afternoon of Sun. 2nd, and a barn dance in the evening, with friends joining him not only from Wythenshawe but also from previous churches in Birmingham and elsewhere. He suggested that appropriate presents, should anyone wish to give any, would be donations towards Tsunami relief in the Solomon Islands, where his daughter Kathryn is currently working. At the last count it looked as if he would reach £2,000.

Kathryn writes:

It has been quite an eventful first part of 2007 presenting many challenges to the people of the Solomon Islands, and to us personally in our work as Mission Partners. The thought, prayers and messages of support that we have received so far in the last two years, particularly in the last few months have been both humbling and have given us much encouragement in the difficulties we have faced. We have been especially touched by the messages that we and our families have received following the earthquake and tsunami, and we are only sorry that we cannot reply to you all individually. Please accept our apologies and know that our thanks and our love in this newsletter are sent to you all individually. ...

Coming back to work and life in the Solomons was a case of coming down to earth with a bump. The first couple of months were extremely hard, and it is only through the support of family and friends, and with a lot of prayer that we have managed to continue in our work here.

The start of the school year was very difficult, in that the Deputy Principal who was supposed to be coming never arrived, the School Secretary was off sick, there was a shortage of three teachers and the school computer broke down losing all our files - Kathryn's work was also very stressful Our mindset whilst away on holiday was that having fitted in so well to life here, and it being our last year here, things would be easy and we would settle back into the routine easily. This not being the case we struggled for quite a while.

However, from these negative feelings and experiences have come some positives. Kathryn is now concentrating on HIV/AIDS, an area she is very interested. She is coordinating the Helena Goldie Hospital side of a partnership with a UK charity that will provide awareness, testing, counselling and treatment for people served by Helena Goldie Hospital.

Earthquakes and Tsunamis

This time last year we were writing about another major event in the Solomons – the April riots after the elections. As I am sure you will all know, we have had first hand experience of this year's catastrophic event that has affected many Solomon Islanders – the earthquake and tsunami.

It is not every day you run away from a tsunami. It is also not every day that you receive hospitality beyond measure from complete strangers. Yet, it is often these times when the qualities of others can teach us so much.

We were at Sasamunga on Choiseul Island at the time and had been there for less than twenty-four hours when the 8.1 magnitude earthquake and following tsunami struck.

In Sasamunga this particular earthquake didn't seem any different than the several other quakes the Solomon Islands had experienced in recent weeks. In Munda however, the earthquake was much much stronger, making it impossible to walk, and there was also a lot of damage to houses and water tanks. Meanwhile, back in Sasamunga we all continued going about our everyday business. I carried on having a shower under the village water supply, whilst the corrugated iron put up to protect people's modesty wobbled a little alarmingly around me.

Nature, however, had not finished with the Solomon Islands causing a tsunami that devastated whole villages on Ghizo and Simbo islands. It was twenty minutes later that the first wave struck

Sasamunga, sending people running and shouting. Kathryn, was brushing her teeth at the supply, and the first she knew of the impending tsunami was the screams of others who had seen the first wave, a sound followed immediately by the powerful sucking of the water as it retreated beyond the small reef in front of the house we were staying in.

A very startling sight, as I left my room was seeing Amos, the minister with whom we were staying, holding his four year old twins and seven year old son under his arms and running through the house and out the back. Later he told me, how he had sent his sons to buy sugar from the small store along the path by the sea and that fortunately, as he searched frantically for them, they had turned back and were running towards him. Equally, fortunate was the fact that a steep hill was only a 400m dash from the shore, allowing us quickly to put some vertical distance between us and the waves below.

As more and more people gathered on the hill with their eyes fixed on the retreating, 'boiling' and swirling water, followed suddenly by the powerful advance of a once sustaining, but now life threatening sea, a whole range of emotions were displayed. There were those who were distraught that they had lost everything, their only possessions being the clothes they were standing up in, whilst others laughed and joked that they would not have to go out fishing, as waves had carried the fish onto land. Then there were the tears and screams of children who did not understand what was happening around them. The sea retreating brought with it those who took the risk of returning to their houses to pick up anything from bags of rice to stereos. Throughout Western Province and Choiseul where the tsunami hit, it was mostly actions like this that led to the loss of life.

About 50 people have died and many people are still reported to be missing. Bishop Rawlinson Zapo, in his 40's, of the Central West Region of the United Church in the Solomon Islands, was killed on Simbo, and his wife, Janice, critically injured, as they returned to collect some of their belongings. It took three hours for villagers to free her, as the sea had washed away their tools. Fortunately, she is recovering well and is in a stable condition now in Honiara. At Titiana on Ghizo, children collected fish from the beach as the sea at first retreated revealing the coral reef, before pounding the village with waves up to 10m high. Many children are still missing.

In Sasamunga standing at the top of the hill, life over possessions was a dominant theme in conversation – "Yumi lucky! Yumi garem laef! Everiting else - tings nomoa!" People were amazingly thankful that they were alive and well; even if they had lost their homes and belongings,

and were now having to camp in the bush on a hillside for who knows how long.

By the afternoon, when there was a feeling of confidence that the sea had settled down, we and others felt brave enough to retrieve our belongings. It was then that the extent of the damage became evident. The Primary School, Kindergarten, all the bridges over rivers and one wing of the hospital had been totally destroyed. About 200 houses had been knocked down or relocated. One wooden house had been picked up whole and moved 20 metres, with only a wall removed.

Within such devastation it can be hard to figure out where God is in all of this. However, it was the next two days of camping out in the bush that Kathryn and myself were humbled by the generosity and hospitality of Melanesian culture. On the first afternoon we were told that a half finished leaf house would be our home for the next few days, the owner, Robert, choosing to spend the first night in the bush. Barbara and her family, who we'd never met until that day, provided lunch and dinner for us each day, and flasks of hot water so we wouldn't run out of tea. Their small rainwater tank provided water not just for us, but also for others who were displaced. An offer of us helping with the food or to buy some rice was politely declined; the custom of Choiseul people being to provide for friends and guests.

To be told that we were 'struggling' with the people there, when all we had lost was a pair of flip-flops, a toothbrush and toothpaste (all discarded on the run up the hill), and to be given such hospitality, was an immensely humbling experience. It is the powerful forces of solidarity, generosity and hospitality of people that will stay in our minds, just as much as the destructive force of the waves.

We finally managed to get back to Munda on the Thursday, hitching a lift on the RAMSI plane, after them finally getting permission from head office in Honiara.

Since then Munda has been the centre of the Solomons with Hercules from overseas and helicopters ferrying aid in and out on a daily basis. The initial suffering of communities around the country is compound by the isolation of the islands, making the distribution of relief extremely difficult. Many people are frightened to return to their homes, fearing another earthquake or tidal wave, and are camped in the forests surrounding villages. Though in doing so they risk malaria and illnesses associated with poor sanitation and drinking water.

Helena Goldie Hospital has been a bit busier as patients have been referred from Gizo hospital, which was damaged by the tsunami, so Kathryn has been working in outpatients and sorting out second hand

clothes that the hospital has received as donations, which will be distributed to affected communities.

Whole islands have been lifted up, whilst others have sunk down, and coral reefs have been relocated and destroyed. It is amazing being here as God continues to shape and change the Earth as he has done over millions of years.

Magpie ...

... mentioned last month a meeting to talk about changes in waste disposal in Manchester ~ but too late to report on in Concord then. A new company is likely to get the contract, it seems ~ Viridor-Laing ~ though at present they are only "preferred bidder". It will be a very big contract; a figure in excess of £1 Bn. was mentioned at the meeting. (If they get it wrong, there will be a big hole in someone's bank account.) They were sounding out views about new facilities at the present Sharston Civic Amenity Site, which is many years old, and manages to recycle less than 25% of what passes through its gates. The ideas: to rearrange the public access and traffic flow, so that domestic waste can be dumped more easily, without traffic jams, and sorted in the process into wood, metals, greens, plastics, &c &c: to renew the municipal waste (and commercial waste) disposal shed, so that the sorting is far more "smart", and the different kinds of waste can be sent off site for recycling, rather than dumping in landfill sites; as part of this green waste will be "anaerobically digested" in silos on site, with the solids left being used for compost, and the gases given off being collected, and used to fire a power station which will provide the electrical energy for the site, and sell some to the National Grid. Viridor are mindful of noise and of smells, and hope to limit these with insulation and by "scrubbing" the ventilated air. There's probably a lot more technical stuff, but a Magpie has only limited memory.

... So far so good, and if it works as intended it will be far better in terms of the amount recycled and used product-ively. What they admitted was that it will mean perhaps 50% more lorry movements in and out of the site in a week ~ though many will be direct from or to the motorway junction to carry recycled materials to factories elsewhere. And there will be two (smaller) trains each day instead of one, carrying materials for landfill or further processing. This is the beginning of a consultative and then Planning process, so watch this space, as Magpie said before. They may not even get the job ~ but someone will, and a lot of the process is already in our back yard. The Rector's comment ~ in the light of discussions and campaigns some years ago ~ was that if he had been asked to say what kind of a system

should be used for Manchester's waste, it would have been something like this, with the gases which are given off anyway as green waste rots being captured and harnessed for energy, and the residue going for compost.

... has lost one of his favourite perches. The great Horse Chestnut tree in the North-East corner of the churchyard has been felled. It was suffering from a tree-ey disease, and was clearly dying in May, with such leaves as it had turning brown and dropping. The tree surgeon said it wasn't to be called phyto-phthora cactorum any more, but just bleeding canker. Whatever it was, the tree is no more ~ but two sapling oaks, which were growing in the churchyard in places where they would have to be moved from, have been moved to replace it, and a mountain ash will be added to the group if one can be found.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Wythenshawe 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,

Christian Aid Week , 2007.

We now have a figure for collections this year: £1992. Not our best, but not too far short. Thanks, again, to all who have given, collected, or been involved in any other way.

Greg Forster, June & Brian Phillipson.

As part of the publicity for Christian Aid week the charity produced a card telling us "Ten Things you need to know about Christian Aid." I reproduce the ten now:

1. We believe in life before death~ we are passionate about rooting our poverty.
2. We fund long-term development work, respond to emergencies, and challenge the unjust systems that make and keep people poor. **
3. We are the official development agency of 41 church denominations in the UK and Ireland.
4. We help people of all faiths and none.
5. We believe in helping people to find their own lasting solutions to poverty.
6. We work through more than 600 partners ~ local organisations ~ in more than 50 countries.
7. We challenge those with power to change things that have an adverse effect on poor communities, such as international trade rules and climate change.
8. We don't give money to governments ~ we work directly with local organisations on the ground.
9. We spend money where it is needed most. For each £1 given in 2005/6, 85p was used for direct charitable expenditure. The remaining 15p was used to raise the next £1.
10. You can find out more at [www . christianaid . org . uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) or by calling 0845 7000 300.

** The breakdown given is Emergencies 35.5%, Long term Development 35%, Campaigning and Education 13%, Fundraising 15% and Administration 1.5%

NEW DAWN COUNSELLING.

Free, professional counselling
at the New Dawn Community Centre,
Button Lane, Northen Moor. Tel. 0161 – 962-8100.

Counselling in a Christian context.

The service is free, though donations towards the costs are welcome.

St. Wilfrid's Church,

Ford Lane. (Off Church Rd.)

Rector: Greg Forster (998-2615)

Organist: Arthur Mellor (928-0472)

www . stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk



Services:

Communion on Sundays from 15th July onwards at 8.00am, and on Thursdays at 10.00am

There is a "Sunday Club" for 7 – 11+ year olds in the Rectory at 10.30am, for about an hour, (but not on 8th July) and ...

Scramblers, 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.

July 1 st	*	10.30am Family Service & Parade. 6.30pm Evening Worship
8 th	*	10.30am Morning Prayer 6.30pm United Evening Service
15 th		10.30am Baptism and Holy Communion. 6.30pm Evening Worship
22 nd		10.30am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evening Worship
29 th		10.30am Holy Communion 6.30pm Holy Communion (1662)

* **There will be no 8am services on July 1st & 8th.**

Aug. 5 th		10.30am Family Communion 6.30pm United Service at Northenden Methodist Church.
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*The church is open each Sunday from 2.00– 5.00pm,
for prayer, visiting, enquiries, &c.*

SUNDAY CLUB, SCRAMBLERS ...

There is no Sunday Club on 1st or 8th July;

There is a joint Scramblers / Sunday Club picnic on Sun. 15th July after Church. Parents, brothers and sisters are all welcome. Please bring a contribution of food and join us as soon as Church is over (soon after 11.30am.)

After that, both clubs will be closed over the summer. Scramblers reopens on 9th Sept., and Sunday club on 23rd Sept.

IT'S ALL HAPPENING ... for your diaries

Sat. June 30th School Summer Fair

St. Wilfrid's School, Patterdale Rd., 1.00 – 3.00pm

Mon. 4th Women's Group Barbeque starting at 7.00pm

Sat. 7th Coffee Morning; Church Hall. 10am ...

Wed. 18th Bible Study ~ the Holy Spirit ~ Rectory 7.45 for 8pm

School Leavers' Service, Thu. 19th at about 9.15am-ish.

Wed. 25th Bible Study (as above).

PCC Meeting ~ to be arranged.

Sat. 4th Aug. No Coffee Morning ~

Cream tea in the Rectory Garden, 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

WOMEN'S GROUP ... meets on

*The next meeting will be on Monday **Sept. 3rd**, in the Rectory as usual, 7.45 for 8.00pm.*

If anyone knows of any "interesting" speakers I should be glad to hear about them!

Sue

From the Registers ...

In Memoriam ...

Apologies for the mis-spelling last month in our entry of the death of Mary Fearn.

Maureen Kay (Kenworthy Lane)

Baptised on Sunday, June 17th, 2007

~ at St. Wilfrid's ~ Jodi Janine Nicole Sasha Howarth

~ and as part of his confirmation at St. James' Didsbury:
Peter Dawson.

Married ... in the parish church on ...

May 26th Laura McMenemie to Ian Peter Mackey

June 9th Laura Jane Hodcroft to Michael Percival

... and at St. George's Chapel, Paphos, on ...

25th May Jennifer and Ryan Moore. (West View)

Benny barks again ...

... Yes, Benny is back, and has heard that Wythenshawe Hall is being opened on Saturdays from 11.00am till 5.00pm between 2nd June and 29th Sept., with special children's activities on some

of those dates between noon and 4pm. ~ on 7th July you can make your own coat of arms, or on 21st, a perfumed pomander. (What, nothing for dogs?) For more details, contact Ali Davenport on 998 – 2117

... wonders how many people have noticed that President George Bush has at last come up with a solution for Global Warming: a series of meetings and conferences ~ in other words, a lot of hot air.

... hung around during the open days at St. Wilfrid's in June, and overheard one of the visitors ~ William Waters ~ describe the stained glass windows. He had come from Maryport (on the Solway) to look at one window in particular. It was by John Clayton, of Clayton and Bell, and is recorded in a Building Journal in 1862. The church had it down as by one of Clayton's pupils, and had it dated after the rebuilding of 1873-6. It is the "Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids" in the children's corner, and Mr. Waters was quite excited about it, despite some damage. It is a good example of Clayton's work. Presumably, like the main east window, it was taken out and stored during the rebuilding work. He has also identified some of the previously unknown craftsmen who did other windows, so when Jim Eglan's booklet on the windows is reprinted, there will be a supplement.

... knows a cat among the pigeons when he scents one. June's Civic Society meeting was like that. The proposal to put a drug rehabilitation unit in the old solicitors' office on the corner of Chapel Rd. was like a red rag to a bull to people living near, and when representatives of the agency who will run this service for the City Council (ADS) came to explain their plans you could see the feathers fly. They explained that small numbers of ex-addicts were involved, coming to specific appointments, and coming because they want help to be clear of the problem. Residents smelled a rat. "The council will be giving permission for a council sponsored service; it's a stitch up! Why didn't you consult us earlier?" "A leopard can't change his spots," they said; "we'll have addicts hanging around, and pushers, and burglaries. What about our house prices?" "Why here," they asked; "isn't there somewhere else away from houses?" "Well, no," was the answer, "we looked, and this is on a good bus route central to our area." "What about the parking?" they said. "No worse than the solicitors. Even our four staff may not use cars." was the reply. And so on. It must have felt like a bear pit. And yet, the residents have a right to fear that they are being sold a pig in a poke.