

2 0 ~ J u l y ~ 0 9

Prayer for the Month.

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord,  
to know you is eternal life,  
to serve you is perfect freedom.

Defend us your servants from all assaults of our  
enemies;

frustrate the schemes of those who would work evil  
in our communities and our world;

that we may trust in your defence

and not fear the power of an adversaries;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Based on a morning prayer from our various prayer books.

Northenden Rectory,  
Ford Lane,  
Manchester, M 22 4 NQ  
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Dear Friends,

A rather shorter Concord this month than of late, with  
some snippets of news and comment from Magpie, the usual  
diary dates and details, as well as this letter, ... so read on.

It had started with a joke about a pub quiz, I think.  
“Where would you find a commination?” was the question. It is  
hardly surprising that the only team to get it included a cleric.  
(Even Mr.Gates’s spellchecker has just twice tried to correct it to  
combination.) The answer is in a 1662 prayer book, of course. It  
is the service written for Ash Wednesday which is full of woes,  
and includes the memorable line “Cursed be he that moveth his  
neighbour’s landmark.”

The discussion took place in the vestry before a  
confirmation service, as bishop and clergy were getting ready.  
(So now you know what bishops and clergy talk about in their  
almost spare time). Someone then asked if anyone knew anyone  
who had ever used it. The expected  
answer was no, but I recall myself using  
it over twenty years ago as a variation

A Service for Ash  
Wednesday?

on Ash Wednesday. (After all, it is a 'different' day, and neither evening prayer nor a communion service are particularly different or ashen.) It is sidelined nowadays, partly because it is only available in Cranmerian language, full of thees and thous, but also because the idea of cursing does not rest easy in the minds of Christians today, clerical or lay.

I can see the point. On the face of it we can hardly be loving our neighbour if we start cursing (even if he does move the fence or plant Leylandii.) Modern Christians don't do that sort of thing, do we? But that, I believe, is to miss the point! This is not some private rant against an individual we have fallen out with.

We are opposed to crime and injustice. Whether this is old testament villagers or (relatively) modern Anglicans who are using such a text, they are solemnly declaring as a community, to themselves as much as to any offenders, that they are opposed to crime and injustice, the exploitation of the weak or the glorification of violence. It affirms the justice of God, as well as his mercy.

OK, drop the cursing bit, ~ it's not PC, and could be misunderstood ~ but would you not want to pray for the frustration of evil in society, for success in police operations against that frightening armed robbery, for the restraint of the rampages of some paranoid dictator? The psalms are full of prayers for God's protection against injustice and worse. We blithely pray for defence against assaults of our enemies ~ and I don't think that's just a historical hangover, about the Spanish Armada (or was it the French when Cranmer wrote it?)

Perhaps the way in which such a prayer will work out will not so much be in terms of arrests or political upheavals, or whatever dire consequences we may think of in our worst moments ~ though it may ~ but in patient community work, and changed hearts, in conciliation and negotiation. (Perhaps we should pray for people who are bad neighbours, not just for good ones.) Perhaps too we will have to find our own actions, personal or corporate, frustrated, restrained and corrected.

So I am happy to continue to pray for a frustration of evil in a world God intends to be just and good.

Ironically we went out into the confirmation service to be asked, "Will you persevere in resisting evil ...?" and, "Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for

the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?" and we all answered, "With the help of God, I will!" The old service asked for God's intervention. The modern one pledges our activism. Which is more correct? Or are both?

Yours faithfully,

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 Lesley Thomson (491-1323)

The main hall and smaller rooms are available for hire;

~ contact Peter Todhunter (Meeting House Warden) 834-5797,

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## **Northenden Methodist Church.**

Palatine Road.

Minister: the Revd. David Bown,

**5 Kenworthy Lane, Northenden, M 22 4 JF**

**0161 998 – 2158**

### **Sunday Services.**

July	5 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	The Rev. David Bown
		6.30pm	United Service at St.Wilfrid's
	12 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	"Action for Children" Day (Formerly National Children's Homes.) The Northenden Worship Team.
	19 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Circuit Service at St.Andrew's Ch.
	26 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Holy Communion The Revd. Margaret Hall.
Aug.	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00am	Morning Worship
		6.30pm	United Service @ Northenden Methodist ch.

### **Community Lunches**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July ... and ...  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July ~ Noon till 1.30pm

Fun Bingo Sat.. 25<sup>th</sup> June, Noon – 2.00pm

Expenses, Allowances and things.

Members of the Methodist Churches in Wythenshawe and Northenden have been all too aware of the Parliamentary expenses scandal. It was a topic for sermon and discussion at services early in June, and we decided to write expressing our concern to our own MP here in Wythenshawe and Sale East. Paul Goggins is sensitive to our worries, has spoken with David Bown and others and is ready to talk privately with the churches about our concerns.

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## 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 at 8.00am (except 12<sup>th</sup> July)  
and on Thursdays at 10.00am

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

... We are very sorry, but please note that Sunday Club will be closed from July 5<sup>th</sup> until October 11<sup>th</sup>. There are no club meetings during July, August or September because of one or other of the leaders being away. So have a lovely summer, everyone! Note that there are Family Services in church on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 6<sup>th</sup> September and (for Harvest) 4<sup>th</sup> October.

However ... "Scramblers", for children from 3½ to 6+, meets in the Church Hall from 10.30 till about 11.30am., on July 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, and again from 13<sup>th</sup> September.

July 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Family Communion & Parade Service
	6.30pm	United Service at St. Wilfrid's
12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion (NB no 8am service)
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Worship

26<sup>th</sup>            10.30am    Morning Worship  
                      6.30pm    Holy Communion

Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>            10.30am    Family Communion  
                      6.30pm    United Service at Northenden Methodist Ch.

Drop in ...    2 – 5pm.  
 St. Wilfrid's church is open each Sunday  
 from 2.00 – 5pm,  
 for prayer, visiting and just looking round, enquiries about  
 baptisms, weddings, ancestor hunting, ... &c.

It's All Happening ..., for your diaries ...

Wed. 1<sup>st</sup>. July        Bible Study. Rectory. 8.00pm  
 Mon. 6<sup>th</sup> July        Women's Group ~ Traffic Safety. David Holmes.  
 Thurs. 9<sup>th</sup>            PCC meeting. Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Thurs. 16<sup>th</sup>        9.15am    School in Church ~ Leavers' Service.  
 Sat. 25<sup>th</sup>            Coffee Morning 10.00 to 11.30am.

And watch out for that cream tea on the 15<sup>th</sup> August.

Some details of Women's Group meetings:  
 Mon. July 6<sup>th</sup>. 7.45 for 8.00pm Dave Holmes,  
 speaking about Forensic Collision Reconstruction  
 and Mon. 3<sup>rd</sup> August, @ 7.00pm ~ The Barbecue.

Open days ...

Sorry, but you missed the last lot (if you did, that is).  
 Put a note in your diary for the next open week-end, which is  
 Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> of September, coinciding with the  
 national Heritage Open Days. More details later. We understand  
 that something is also being planned for the Riverside Park that  
 week-end.

FROM THE REGISTERS;

IN MEMORIAM ...

Anne Mulholland (Brett St.) 84, Joseph Smith (West View Rd.) 81  
 Frederick Walker (Northen Moor) 86.  
 Nora Siddall (Brett St.) 87, Florence Wilkes (ex Gatley) 105,

We also record, with a sense of shock, the death of Danny  
 Meehan in an accident while working in Scotland.

Married, on Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June ...

Carol Ann Armstrong to Michael Stapley

Baptised, ... on Sun. 21<sup>st</sup> June

Courtney-Leigh Williams

Daniel Peter Mann, Grace Louise Mann.

Confirmed, at St. John's Brooklands, on 21<sup>st</sup> June,

by Stephen Lowe, Bishop of Hulme

Beryl Butterworth.

Magpie ...

... tries not to be too political a bird, but was amused the other day to see a car bumper sticker ~ "Don't Steal," it said, "The Government doesn't like competition." A wry comment, from the bumper of a rather plush car, a Jaguar or Daimler or something. Magpie wonders whether the slogan, "Property is theft," would sit as easily there. Both are wrong, in fact. "Property is responsibility" would be a truer moral stance, and as the late bishop of Manchester argued in his book *A Theology of Taxation* (I think that was the title) taxation is a part of the ordinary person's (and the rich man's) contribution, under God, towards sharing his responsibility for the community. We may have qualms about what the Government then do with our taxes, but that is a different story.

... has noted that the well known atheist theologian, Richard Dawkins, is at it again. He has some TV programmes coming up which detail the wonders of adaptation and selection in the natural world, such that creatures can survive and thrive in the post challenging situations. Will he describe the glories of a magpie's iridescent plumage and chisel beak? We wonders. So far so good; Hallelujah! Dawkins and his ilk are thinking God's thoughts after Him, though they haven't noticed and would be uncomfortable if they did. If he keeps to the science, splendid. If he starts talking theology (atheology?) then take it with a pinch of salt. Humour him ~ God is his imaginary enemy, you see.

... and talking about religion and science, watch out for reports in the press or broadcast media about the resolution which Manchester Diocese will be proposing at this month's General Synod (the C of E's parliament) affirming the

compatibility of religious faith and scientific endeavour. Shaped in discussions by scientists in the diocese it asks the church to challenge the current propaganda that evolutionary science somehow disproves the God who created it.

... Magpies are calculating birds. Usually the calculation is how many chunks of food can be crammed into their beaks without dropping any as they fly away, and before anyone else comes to nick them ~ but sometimes they look at statistics. The most important statistic to come out of the recent European Elections in the North-West is that the number of votes cast for the British National Party dropped. They are less popular than they were five years ago. Unfortunately, some other parties, caught in the backlash of the expenses fiasco, lost an even greater proportion of their support.

... and for Magpie's readers in Cornwall, Mebion Kernow (The Cornish National party) came fifth in that election there, with something over 14,000 votes, behind (in alphabetical order) Conservatives, Greens, Liberal-Democrats and UKIP.

... and talking of elections, the results of the survey in Northenden about a proposed civil Parish Council are due out in the last week of June, but are embargoed till then. That means Magpie has to hold his beak shut till then since Concord may hit your doormats before the announcement is made, but he is rather surprised at the outcome. So watch not this but that space. There will no doubt be cocks crowing.

... plans are afoot, at last, for some "traffic calming" measures along Longley Lane. It is a fairly long straight road, which has invited rather more speeding than anyone living near it is happy with. Speeds of 70 mph have been claimed. Magpie cannot vouch for that, but has seen some rather wild driving. Some of the improvements proposed are simply reminders that it is a built up area, with a school and a children's centre near-by; others will include what I can only call stop-islands (no doubt there is a technical name for them) which will force traffic in alternate directions to give way to oncoming vehicles; crossings too are proposed, but their precise location, and that of the islands, is still a matter of discussion. This comes as a spin off from the new works at Sharston tip. The management there are committed to keeping their vehicles out of the residential parts of

Northenden (except when doing actual collections) so if you do see a non-local bin-lorry, make a note of its details.

... is not a great tennis fan, but is a Northenden fan, and thinks it is worth remarking that in times past ~ long past ~ Britain's last Wimbledon men's champion used to enjoy the odd game here. As some of you may know, the Old Rectory lawn used to be a tennis court, and Fred Perry was an occasional visitor to the family of the Rector in the 1930s. Does that make it hallowed turf?

## Christian Aid Week ...

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed, with gifts or their time and effort, to collecting back in May. With one or two envelopes still appearing, our interim total is £1,909 this year. That is down on last year, unfortunately, but fewer people have been collecting in fewer streets, thanks to holidays and other commitments. It is still a worthwhile effort. I will update you if there is a significant change to that figure.

Looking ahead to next year ... ~ any volunteers to take on some more streets?  
G.S.F.

## Water Power?

Discussions continue about the possibility of a Hydro-electric power scheme at the site of the old mill weir. The sticking point is the quantity of water that sometimes comes down off the Pennines. We cannot create a blockage to the flow of that, nor would it be sense to build something that would get wrecked in the next big storm. Investigation, however, is continuing, in liaison with the Environment Agency. GSF

Northenden Civic Society ~ a "Village Plan". G.S.Forster

Readers will know that the Civic Society has been working on proposals to influence development in the village over the next twenty years. These are now ready for publication, and should be in the library, and to the council, soon. Ask me for a copy.