

CONCORD ~ JULY 2011

Prayer for the Month ...

Eternal God, the source of all authority and wisdom, hear our prayer for those who govern;

Give to Elizabeth our Queen grace as the symbol of loyalty and unity for all our different peoples and communities;

Give to the parliaments, assemblies and councils of these islands, wisdom and skill, imagination, energy, *fairness and compassion*;

Give to the members of the European institutions vision, *and humility*, understanding and integrity;

Grant to those who manage the economies of the world an understanding of the forces at work in them, and a sympathy with the people subjected to them;

That all may live in peace and happiness, truth, justice and prosperity, through Jesus Christ the Lord of all. Amen

Based on a "for those who govern" prayer in "Common Worship".

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane. 0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

In my letter last month I threw out some brief thoughts about cheques. We have already lost the "guarantee card" scheme, which seems rather unfair and petty. Or is it a ploy to make cheques as a whole less attractive and so squeeze them out of the system. The banks avoid liability for small debts, make fraud easier for the petty criminal, and increase the risk that their small customers will incur losses. (Surely bad of *their* business too.)

It may be that for big organisations, with staff who are trained to manage electronic transactions, a cheque is an awkward and time consuming way of making and receiving payments. OK, let them give out their bank codes and other details. But if this is about financial *service*, rather than profit taking, we as a community need to cater for the small person, without the skills or resources of the big players ~ the person who does not have a mobile phone on which to conduct a transaction, or whose eyes are too poor or fingers too arthritic to work it quickly and easily ~ the person who makes only one off payments to a business, so will not be setting up a standing order ~ the charity which relies on occasional gifts, not regular or big donations ~ the small business that relies on passing

trade, not on regular contracts ~ the person who has taken to heart all the publicity about not passing on your bank details to strangers ~ and the person who can all too easily be gulled into doing just that.

I can see all sorts of problems. Some will be economic, as those who are unskilled in the new technologies are squeezed out of the market, and monopolies grow. Some will be to do with crime, as the weak and vulnerable find they need to carry more cash to the shops, or hide more cash under the mattress; as shops find they have more cash in the till, and are so more attractive to robbery. Perhaps also (Chancellors of the Exchequer take note) the opportunities for the black economy to flourish will grow, as traders and workmen take more in cash which leaves no audit trail and cannot be traced for tax purposes. I am sure there are more drawbacks still, which I have not seen. Any suggestions?

So what should be done? I think we should oppose the phasing out of cheques more vigorously than is happening at the moment. This is surely one area where state intervention is legitimate, forcing banks to continue to use and honour cheques. Perhaps the way to do it is to make it illegal to pay any bankers their bonuses except by a cheque, or legally to limit the total sum a bank may pay in bonuses to (say) £0.10p for every cheque processed during the year. Or is this too mischievous an idea? Perhaps we should all go into our banks every time we want to make a payment, and present them with an ordinary letter asking them to make the transaction manually in front of our eyes. I fear that that is what I shall have to do in connection with some wages payments for which I am responsible ~ I can't just set up a standing order, since they vary month by month due to the way tax is calculated, and extra hours worked. But then, that is what people used to do before cheques were invented, wasn't it?

And just a thought; does anyone remember the televised story by A.P.Herbert, MP, in which a cheque was quite legitimately written on the side of a cow (yes, I did write C-O-W) which was duly walked into the bank and presented? I forget the ending.

This is, I believe, a concern for the church, not just because many of our members will, I suspect, be flummoxed by the demise of cheques, but out of a general concern for the underprivileged and for the vibrancy of small scale, local community.

But read on for more news and views...

Greg Forster

Northenden Methodist Church

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

Sunday Services.

July	3 rd	11.00am	Mrs. Cara Cornelius
		6.30pm	United Service; The Rev. D. Bown
	10 th	11.00am	Mrs. Dorcas Muzengi
	17 th	11.00am	Mr. Gwyn Willaims
	24 th	11.00am	The Rev. Charles Nevin (Holy Communion)
	31 st	11.00am	The Rev. David Bown
Aug.	7 th	11.00am	Mrs. Kathryn Price
		6.30pm	Evening worship at St. Wilfrid's
	14 th	11.00am	Northenden Preaching Team.

Community Lunch

Wed. 13th July 12 noon – 1.30pm

... August details to be announced

Fun Bingo

Last Saturday of the Month (30th), 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 24th & 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 June 5th & July 3rd when there is a Family Service in
church.

July 3rd. 10.30am Family Communion & Parade service
@ 6.30pm Evening Service @ Northenden Methodist Ch.

10th 10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Evening Worship

17th 10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Evening Worship

24th 10.30am Morning Worship **(NB no 8.00am)**
6.30pm Evening Worship

31st 10.30am Morning Worship **(NB no 8.00am)**
6.30pm Evening Worship

Aug. 7th 10.30am Family Communion **(NB no 8.00am)**
6.30pm United Service at St. Wilfrid's

14th 10.30am Morning Worship **(NB no 8.00am)**
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. 2nd. Remember the Farmers' Market in the village.
Mon. 4th **Women's Group** 8.00pm Rectory.
Frank Palmer, The Children's Society.
Wed. 6th, 13th, 20th, Bible Studies. Rectory. 8.00pm.
Wed. 13th School Governors @ 6.00pm
P.C.C. meeting ~ Thursday 21st at 7.30pm, Church Hall.
Sat. 30th **Cream Tea, 2.00 till 4.00pm.**

August.

Sat. 6th Again, remember the Farmers' Market.
No bible studies till September.

“New” Graves.

G S Forster.

I hope you don't think it's too morbid to be talking about graves, but it is (you might say) a serious, or even a grave, matter which does come to us all. (*groan!*)

But, puns apart, if your family already has a grave in Northenden Churchyard, then it can of course be used again, until it is full (that normally would mean four burials, though sometimes only three are possible.) There are also the two areas set aside for the interment of cremated remains. These are virtually full, and I shall shortly be looking for other possible locations ~ but again, if you have reserved a space already there is no problem.

However, what is less obvious is that there are a number of spaces available for “new” graves. Back in 1930, when our grave plan and index were made, about a hundred places were noted where even then the Rector and Sexton did not know and could not find out by local inquiries who had been buried there. They must have been used, or at least spoken for, back in the 1870s and '80s when that part of the churchyard was opened up, but by 1930 no one was left who could remember. The family had presumably either moved away or died out and had never left a headstone. (But if you are tending an otherwise unmarked grave, please let me know. I asked a few years ago and got no reply, but ...)

Eighty years further on we are not going to be any the wiser, though I do check through all of our records before I reallocate a grave. As Rector I am entitled to say who can be buried in the churchyard and where, and I feel justified now in accepting requests for burial in these graves in our churchyard.

Ownership of the land remains with the Rector for the Time Being, but there is a charge, in addition to the normal burial fees, for use of these "new" graves. I can explain more if anyone is interested.

THE CHURCH HALL FOR PARTIES ? GSF

We are hoping that the renovation of the church hall kitchen will take place in the next month or so. This should make it a more pleasant place to work in. We are grateful to the Manchester Airport Community Fund, and also to the City Council through their "U-Decide" scheme, for making this possible. (There is also a longer term possibility that other parts of the hall could get a Make-over, which will make it warmer as well as more attractive.)

Meanwhile, can I remind you that the hall is available for hirings. It is not just a private building for church use, but is a resource for the whole community. (After all, the Church of England vision of a parish is as a community of all the people living there, not just its own congregation.) 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. Our own Brownies use it on Mondays, and the Scramblers on Sundays. A number of other individuals and groups use the hall on a fairly regular basis for sports training, meetings and events. Can I highlight how it is available for Parties ~ and the new kitchen should make that even better ~ either at Christmas time, or for Birthdays, for children or grown-ups? Talk to me if you might be interested, to see when it is available and how much it would cost, for a party or for a regular event. (0161 998-2615)

The Parish Registers –

In Memoriam ...

Lottie Hallett, Cyril Johnson (late of Marylon Dr.) 66
Marita Collins (Bazley Rd.) 53,
William Broadhurst, Frank Hickman,
Terence Gunns, Patricia McEvoy.

Married, on 21st May ...

Michelle Diane Argirakis to Mark David Cooke

... and on 25th June ...

Emma Gilchrist to Ian George Hilton

Baptised ... on Sunday 29th May ...
Lyla Wolfenden-Brown, James Wilson Moore

... and baptised on Sunday 19th June ...
Isabella Grace Haycock

Confirmed ~ on Whitsunday, 12th June
at St. Paul's Church, Withington;
Charlotte Cook, Caitlin McNiven, Natasha Stapley.

Ordained, at Manchester Cathedral,
on Trinity Sunday, 19th June
The Revd. Margaret Young ~ working at St.Luke's, Benchill.

Women's Group.

... was billed to meet as usual in June, but had a barbecue instead ~ though in the face of uncertain weather nothing got barbecued. Plenty of party food was eaten, however, and a good time was had by all who came.

So in July it is a "regular" meeting ~ but most meetings are highly irregular and it's July 4th, so come dressed as Uncle Sam if you dare. The speaker, seriously, is coming on behalf of the Children's Society, I believe, though Sue is away at the moment and I cannot check that. His name is Frank Palmer, and the brief note that I have says "Diocesan President". If you want to know more, all you have to do is turn up.

Nothing in August, and then we restart on Sept.5th

GSF

Jobs for the Girls ... and Boys!

Can I give general publicity to the opportunities to help in various church activities, in particular helping with brewing tea after Sunday Morning services, helping at Coffee Mornings and Fairs when they take place, and with the arrangement of flowers in church each week. We need to revise and expand the rosters for doing these things. If you are interested let me know, though I anticipate that I or others will be asking people more directly over the next couple of months.

GSF

Christian Aid Week.

I now have final figures for Northenden Christian Aid Week collections. £1,451 was collected either by house to house collecting, or from envelopes returned to St. Wilfrid's and the Methodist Churches. People from St. Hilda's took part in the collecting too. Once again thank you all for your work. Cheques for this have been sent off to Christian Aid.

Disappointingly, this is a far lower total than in recent years. (last year was about £1,850, I think) This reflects a reduction in the number of collectors, and their ability to collect in some streets. It possibly also reflects the way people feel they are living in hard times, and so act less generously.

As reported last month, some of us turned out to cheer on David Hardman and two colleagues from Christian Aid offices here in the north as they cycled past our front door on their way along the Trans-Pennine Trail. The comfort stop was appreciated. I had hoped to have some photographs to use in Concord, but as yet I do not have any that I can reproduce. David emailed shortly after "the Week" to say that he had raised over £1,000 by that effort, ... and counting. Well done! I've done some long cycle rides, but I don't think I could take that one on now.

However much is raised, it goes to a good end. You will recall how publicity for the Week this year focused on economic and community development in Nicaragua, and appropriately included an illustration of how increased resources improved people's ability to get around ~ on a bicycle! We are so blessed here, despite our worries!

Greg Forster

Money for Old Rope? GSF

You may have seen publicity about grossly increased fees for church weddings, suggesting that they will cut out the hidden extras and create a uniform charge across the country. The papers tend to misunderstand all this anyway, and I do not know what the official publicity (which has not reached the ordinary parish cleric yet) says, but my impression is that the exorbitant extras will still get charged on top of these increases ~ not that all the charges mentioned are exorbitant: if you expect a trained musician for over an hour what hourly rate do you expect her to receive? Perhaps the fees we

charge as a church do need to compare more closely with secular "venues", but if so, let's say so clearly. If you object to this idea, write to your MP, since Parliament has to clear these charges. When I get proper details I will publish them.

Magpie...

... saw the Spanish flag on St. Wilfrid's tower in the middle of June. No, they haven't transferred their allegiance; St. Wilfrid's School were having a Spanish Day that week, and it seemed a neat way of celebrating with them. It apparently provoked a bit of comment in the village (as it was also intended to do!) Someone complained that they were flying the *Vatican* flag. No! That is yellow and white, not yellow and red (sorry *Or* and *Argent*, not *Or* and *Gules*). Watch out for other flags ~ what about St. Wilfrid?

... was flying around *that building* late in May, and met a crowd of people looking at it, and then climbing it. It was the developer and colleagues, councillors from Wythenshawe, and people lobbying them, who were making a site visit before a committee meeting to discuss it all. The reason for the change of plans, said the owner, was because people won't buy two storey flats ~ duplexes, or is it *duplices* ~ any more, and he needed the sales to make the scheme work financially. Maybe, but he must have known that before he cut turf, let alone bolted steel. The view from the top is quite good ~ if you like a view of assorted slate roofs. Magpie has seen rather a lot of them as he flies around.

... the competition for a name for the structure remains. Even the Planners don't seem to know whether it is no.1 Church Rd or no.3XX Palatine Rd. The Green Dalek is in vogue at the moment. Now that its shroud of safety netting and scaffolding is down it does look a bit more stylish, at least from the forecourt of Tesco's. In a different, taller environment it might even look like the award winning design that it is claimed to be. (How, we wonders, since it is not being built according to design?) From the back, which is what it presents to most of Northenden, it is just a rather drab, boring rear façade, more obtrusive now than it should be since it is a storey too high. The Wythenshawe committee decided to turn down the application for retrospective planning permission for this additional height. That means it goes to the main council planning committee ~ it should have been on 30th June, but that probably will have changed because of the threatened strike then.

... after complaining that they had not turned up last month, Magpie almost immediately met up with the Post Office House Martins, back from Africa. What is more, he met up with some new friends, down by the weir. A family of Sand Martins nested there, in a hole in the concrete shuttering above the weir itself. That's a new one for Northenden, isn't it?

... and talking of "Northenden", there's no-where quite like it, is there? Literally, there isn't. Our Northenden is the only one listed in the Dictionary of English Place names. More impressive, put Northenden into your internet search engine, with the addition of "rest of the world" and up comes a map of the intersection between the Parkway and the M60. Do you feel unique?

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 in the shop;
contact Ursula, the manager, on 945-7384

... and if you live in Chretien Rd., then you are doubly unique. There is allegedly no other road with that name in the UK. Magpie tried that in the search engine too, and no other Chretien Rd. did come up in the UK. There is a rival, however, in Biddeford, ME, where no.7 is up for sale. (Which US state is ME, by the way?)

... and what do you think of vandalism? What do you think of it if it is paid for by our City council, and consists of spraying half the grass on a private lawn with weed-killer? That is what has happened; the green lane between St.Wilfrid's church and the Spread Eagle pub is a public footpath, but private land. At the end of May it was weed-killed, together with part of the raised grass at the front of the Church Hall. So, instead of a bright green clean and tidy lawn we are faced with a slimy brown desert. Where did they find the money to do that, we wonders!

Midsummer Madness ...

The Concert back in June raised £120 for the work of the Booth Centre, and we have had a further £20 given for the centre since. The Centre is based in a crypt under the Manchester

Cathedral, and runs a drop in, and courses, &c., to help the City's street people get back on their feet. Thank you all who attended, contributed, played, cooked, sang, publicised, poured tea, ... It was a good session, made all the more meaningful because one of the audience had himself benefited a while back from the support the centre gave him, and came to the front briefly to thank people for what was being done and say how much it had helped him.

The next concert in this series is provisionally booked for 8th December ~ carols and folk music for Christmas.

Northenden Civic Society.

Please note that the Society's July meeting is to be in **St. Wilfrid's Church Hall**, at 7.45pm on Tues. 12th

And St. Wilfrid's again...

It must be 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. Ever 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 has proved far harder than it should have, partly because of events outside our control here in Manchester. I hope permission will come through this month, so that he can lead our worship at St. Wilfrid's, and also perhaps draw together Nigerian Christians in Manchester into a fellowship alongside us. Meanwhile, we congratulate him and his wife on the birth of twin boys during June.

Water Power ?

GSF

Readers will know my interest in harnessing the power of the Mersey at Northenden Weir to generate electricity. Didsbury Civic Society have taken on this vision, and are now raising capital. If you are interested, please contact me, as I have their details. (But I am not, of course, a financial adviser, so check it out for yourself)