

J u n e 2 0 0 7

Cover Picture; One of the most striking buildings in Northenden, the Tatton Arms beside the Mersey on Mill Lane, sadly closed and boarded up after a spate of broken windows.



Prayers for the Month.

Almighty God, Father of light and unshadowed glory,
from whom all good things come,
accept our gratitude for the glories of your creation, and for your
generosity in all that we enjoy from it;
grant to us restraint in our use of all the resources that you
provide, and wisdom in our management of them,
so that the world's poor may have enough, and the world's rich
may learn to share, and all the world's people live to praise your
name.

Bless the work of those who bring relief to people whose lives are
marred by disasters, natural and man-made, and bless too the
work of people whose calling is to understand the workings of
your creation and to share that understanding.

Grant too that we may so live as to preserve and enhance the goodness that we see, and sustain the earth of which you have made us trustees and stewards.

Through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane, 0161 998 – 2615

Dear Friends,

I know Whitsun was at the end of May, but I think some thoughts on the work of the Holy Spirit are perhaps appropriate. I am saying this because his work includes the way in which he guides and prompts and supports people in the worship and ministry of the church, and because that is not just the prerogative of people who have been ordained, and because just at the moment in this area of Manchester (this “deanery”) there are fewer clergy than there have been for a while. That is because of retirements and moves to other jobs but it leaves gaps, for the moment at least.

I am in a bit of a dilemma here, because I firmly believe that “Christian” ministry, and “lay” ministry, are not confined to doing bits of the “clergyman’s job” in a church service. Far from it. I hope you can see your “ordinary” work, of serving in a shop, or caring in a hospital, or loving your grandchildren in practical ways, or whatever, as Christian ministry as well as being what pays the bills or helps out the family. (And conversely, what I do in calculating and paying the salaries of the workers in a small multi-cultural community project in Longsight is as much Christian ministry as preaching a sermon or conducting a funeral.) God is Lord of all life, not just the religious bits, and his Spirit inspires and strengthens us in all aspects of our living, not just the churchy bits.

But the churchy bits do need looking after too, and if there is no cleric available (and perhaps even more so when there is!) other people should be able, willing and empowered to take a lead in guiding worship. So where does the Holy Spirit come in? St. Paul talks about the “gifts” of the Spirit (I Cor. 12), which include things which make worship go right. One of the targets which we have set ourselves in St. Wilfrid’s for this year is to build on what we are already doing by way of getting all members of the church to be involved in leading worship. Hold me to it!

The bible studies at St. Wilfrid’s early in June will be looking at the work of the Spirit, so come along if you can. But,

you can see, the Holy Spirit is not just about “spiritual” or mystical feelings, but about God at work in and with communities

And the gossip behind this? ~ four clergy south of the Mersey will have moved by July (out of a complement of nine), and two in this deanery north of the Mersey (out of eight). There are thirteen parishes and fifteen churches in the deanery.

As a result of all this, I have taken several funeral services from St. Michael’s parish in the past couple of weeks, and expect to take more.

Yours faithfully, 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.

3 rd June	11.00am	Mrs. Mary Langton
	6.30pm	The Rev. David Bown (United Service with St. Wilfrid’s)
10 th	11.00am	The Rev. David Bown (Holy Communion)
17 th	11.00am	Mrs. Margaret Hunt
24 th	11.00	Mrs. Margaret Parker

COMMUNITY LUNCHES ... ~

12.00 noon – 1.30pm
on the 2nd. and 4th Wednesdays of the month.
13th (hot), & 27th (buffet)

Fun Bingo: Sat. 30th June, at 12 noon till 2.00pm

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.

Magpie ...

... has heard of a meeting to talk about changes in waste disposal in Manchester ~ but too late to report on in this Concord. A new company has got the contract, it seems. Watch this space.

... but what do you think about paying by weight to have rubbish taken away, or being fined if you put stuff in the wrong bin on the wrong day? And what about fortnightly collections? This is a bit like having your cake and eating it, thinks Magpie. Charge for collection on the Rates (or the Precept or whatever it is now called) and then charge again for doing the job. (If the Saudi's thought that one up we'd be calling in the Serious Fraud Office to investigate back-handers.) Seriously, this is a recipe for fly-tipping, and all kinds of other sharp practice, like dumping your rubbish in the neighbours' bins. Better would be the idea that some people have suggested of giving householders credits to set against the "precept" if they put more than a certain amount of rubbish in the right bins for recycling. But that leads on ~ if the householder is supposed to have a legal obligation to put rubbish out on the right day, etc., there ought to be an equal obligation on the rubbish collector to collect on the day stated all rubbish that is put out (including what won't fit into the bin, but the rats will get at if it is left!). There should be an obligation on the rubbish collector to notify us clearly when collections will take place (especially if it is going to be a bank holiday.) You wouldn't pay the milk-man if he didn't deliver, so why be expected to pay the bin-man if he doesn't collect?

... and Magpie was delighted to see youngsters from one of the youth clubs based at West Wythenshawe Youth Centre helping to cut grass and tidy graves in St Wilfrid's churchyard as part of their work towards the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

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.

It is too early to give you a report on the amount collected this year. It may well be less than in the past, because of the numbers of collectors who were away during the crucial week, or who have been unable to collect at all this year. We said that last year, however, and the total was up with our best, so here's hoping! Thanks, anyway, to all who have given, who have collected, or who have been involved in any other way.

Greg Forster, June & Brian Phil Iipson.

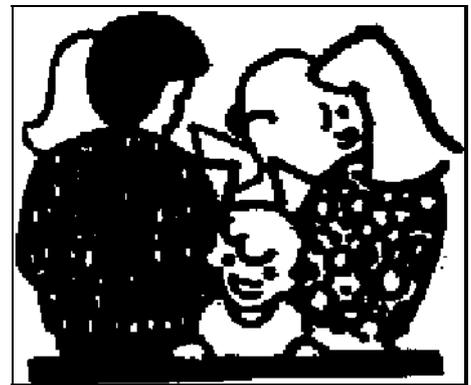
St. Wilfrid's Church,

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, 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 ...

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.

3 rd June		10.30am	Family Communion
		6.30pm	United Service at Northenden Methodist Church
10 th		10.30am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Evening Worship
17 th		10.30am	Holy Communion & Baptism
		6.30pm	Evening worship
24 th	*	10.30am	Morning Worship
		6.30pm	Holy Communion
July 1 st	*	10.30am	Family Service & Parade.
		6.30pm	Evening Worship

* There will be no 8am services on June 24th, or July 1st & 8th.

The church is open each Sunday from 1.45 – 5.15pm,

for prayer, visiting, enquiries, &c.

"Open Days" Sat., Sun. June 16/17th. (see below)
(Tower tours, Saturday only.)

IT'S ALL HAPPENING ... for your diaries

Sat. June 2nd ~ no coffee morning, ...

Summer Fair, Church Hall, 2.00 – 4.00pm

Wed. 6th Bible Study ~ the Holy Spirit ~ Rectory 7.45 for 8pm

13th No Bible Study ~ Deanery Synod.

Thu. 14th Concert in Church 7.30pm Kieron Hartley & Friends.

Sun. 17th 3.00pm Confirmation at St. James' Didsbury.

Mon. 18th School Governors' meeting

Wed. 20th Bible Study, Rectory, 7.45 for 8.00pm start.

Thu. 21st 7.30pm Church Council Meeting: Hall.

No bible studies 27 June or 4th July.

WOMEN'S GROUP ... meets on

Next Meeting, Mon. 4th June @ the Rectory ~ barbecue.

Bring food for half a person.

7.00pm

*After this 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 ...

Mary Fearn (Kenworthy La.) 94, Eileen Lowe (Carron Hs.) 80.
Olive Davies

Baptised on Sunday, May 20th, 2007

Noah Lee Carroll.

TIME STANDS STILL !

You may have noticed that the clock on St. Wilfrid's church tower (on the Ford Lane side, at least) is right twice a day. On the less visible churchyard side it is almost right all of the time.

The mechanism is accurate to about ten minutes in a week (varying between winter and summer depending on temperature) , and is corrected and wound weekly, so don't rely in it for that crucial appointment! As for the Ford Lane face, It has always been a bit wobbly, but now it seems as if a connection has come completely loose. It is very awkward to get at, but I hope to investigate further and repair it if possible as soon as it can be done.

You may also have noticed that the flag was flying rather oddly and for rather a long time in late April and early May. It was put up for St. George's day, and the trail got caught up on the letters of the weather vane. Despite several efforts to dislodge it, it did not finally tear free for about three weeks, and is now in a sorry state. So too is the compass rose of the weather vane. North is pointing to the ground and is more like a Z; south is round the bend and east is twisted too. As for West, half of it is on my hall table and looks quite artistic, but the remainder is a kind of -\ shape. Is this what is meant by climate change? We are looking into repairing the flag, but I do not anticipate going to the expense of straightening the compass letters.

Greg Forster

Open Days ... June 16th & 17th

St. Wilfrid's Church will be open from 11am to 5pm on the Saturday, and from 2 – 5pm on the Sunday. Tower climbs only available on Saturday; displays of church and local activities.

How Green you are ...

During that exceptionally warm month of April I had a birthday, as some of you know, and I spent some of it reading one of my presents, a book entitled Homo Britannicus, which surveys the discoveries over the past five years or so about how people have visited or occupied these islands over the past 700,000 years (give or take a few), accompanied by various animals, from voles with funny names to hippopotamuses (or is it ...tami ?). There have been warm spells, sunny periods, showers, and cold snaps lasting thousands of years, during which people have been wiped out north of the English channel ... Great fun, as I said, since it hardly affects our lives now; a kind of escapism, involving all kinds of ~ologists, who deal with bones

and DNA and rock sediments and layers of ice in Greenland, and the climate.

The last but one chapter dealt with what was for me home territory, around Mendip, some 12,000 years ago. There was a picture of the high Cairngorms, suggesting that in that time Mendip had been like high tundra. It's a good deal warmer now! The last chapter came as a surprise. I was expecting some discussion of the "Mesolithic", which is a posh name for when people were quite bright, but hadn't got round to farming, and when they came back into Britain in some numbers and began altering the vegetation and the climate itself with some gusto. I got a shock. The author launched into a discussion of the future. He pointed out that much of what he had written was in fact about climate change, but he did not conclude that it was all right, we needn't worry because it has always been happening. No, there are lessons to be learned from what has happened in the past, not least that change can happen very fast ~ within a decade or so ~ and that it is catastrophic. Human settlement can be totally disrupted ~ and what was disastrous for a small, hunter-gatherer community will be even more traumatic for an overcrowded technological world. And the change can go either way: global warming can, paradoxically, create a chilling of the North Atlantic, as freshwater ice-melt alters the flow of warm water in the "gulf stream". I won't try to reproduce the details, though high levels of carbon dioxide are involved, and there are signs that the Gulf stream is already weakened.

Another thing I did during April was take the wedding of a cousin of mine. At the reception I met up again with a friend from Bolton days, who now works for a big waste disposal company, seconded to consider the implications of waste disposal for climate change and related green issues. As such he is working with Government Ministers at times, as well as local authorities and industry. He does tend to be enthusiastic, but I have never known him so animated as when he began talking about these issues, and what the church should and could be doing about it. (and I don't think it was just the champagne). He was a bit disgusted, I think. He had approached the Archbishop of Canterbury (I should add that he is an active member of his church in the midlands) to encourage a church response, and discover what the church is doing already as a nation-wide organisation with active cells in every community in the country, with a moral authority and land and property

through which to demonstrate its commitment to ~ well, at least trying to slow the acceleration of climate change.

I was able to tell him that here in Manchester we have been asked in the last few months, in each parish in the diocese, to develop a specific parish policy of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and conserving energy, recycling and the like. I promised to send him the papers I had received from the diocese about this, and which, I thought, were sitting on my desk waiting to be brought to the PCC. I have to confess that I have not yet sent those papers, because I cannot find them (perhaps I recycled them too soon! ~ I have sent for duplicates.) though we did discuss a "Green" policy on the part of St. Wilfrid's at the PCC last week, on the basis of what I recalled of those papers.

So what, (I asked in a sermon on Rogation Sunday when traditionally the church has prayed about the crops and the land and in some places has blessed ploughs, or walked round the fields and the like) ~ what are we proposing to do? To a certain extent, to carry on as before, since I would claim that for a number of years now we have been going Green. Our last two roof repair projects have included insulation; the new heating system is gas, which produces fewer nasties than the previous inefficient oil fired system. (The PCC did not rise to the bait when I asked if we should turn the temperature down!) We will look into window insulation when the opportunity arises ~ and not just because draughts can be cold. We have already sealed a number of doors and other panels which cause waste of energy. The churchyard is managed as a green oasis, a haven for wildlife as well as a last resting place, and not as a green desert with grass scalped to what a hairdresser might call a number one. We replace trees which have to come down, and may plant extra ones. We have mentioned using renewable energy, but are currently tied in to a three year contract, so will have to return to this. And on a related subject, we discussed whether we are right using plastic cups rather than washing china ones (or recycling paper ones) for our refreshments each Sunday, and also whether we should push for fair-trade products only to be used for those refreshments.

All this may seem very small beer, in the face of global crisis (I think that word is justified) which may be part of a "normal" climatic cycle, but is certainly being exaggerated by human activity. The fact that we can only do little should not stop us trying to do a bit, and in doing so to speak about it and raise

awareness of the problem, and of what we might do about it not just as a church organisation, but as individuals: flying, driving, turning up the heating rather than going to get a pullover, ~ reusing paper or glass, and so on.

And to close, I believe this is something to pray about and talk about as Christians, not just as concerned and affected individuals, with grandchildren who may find, in the worst-case scenario, that the high tide washes Sale golf club or floods the Trafford centre. We believe that every good and every perfect gift comes down from above, from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no shadow of turning; whose purpose is good and generous, despite our failings and misuse of his generous gifts. We share his good will towards all people, and as I hinted earlier, if the worst does come to the worst, this is not going to be some minor inconvenience, or a chance to enjoy the Costa del Northenden, but a cataclysm affecting human life as we know it. I read in that Rogationtide service the promise in Genesis chs. 8 & 9, that seed time and harvest would not fail while earth abides. That promise is followed by limits and conditions, which include a respect for life and a restraint in our use of it. We are stewards, not outright owners: God grant that our race does not abuse its trust of the good earth.

Midsummer Folk

Thurs June 14th

In St. Wilfrid's Church, Ford Lane,
At 7.30pm.

A concert of traditional and contemporary folk music,
for summertime.

Refreshments ...

Admission £3.00

Proceeds to the Booth Centre ~

Manchester Cathedral's work with the city's street people.
~ but chiefly, come along, and sing along yourselves!

Bible Society ~ Palestine

A bomb caused extensive damage to the Christian bookstore run by the Palestinian Bible Society in Gaza on 15th April. It was one of three targets in the city that day. Simon

Azizian, Information Officer of the Bible Society in Palestine reported that two masked gun-men kidnapped the security guard (who was later released) but then returned to place a large bomb by the door.

Labib Madanat, Executive Secretary of the Palestinian Bible Society said, "Please pray for the team in Gaza that they retain their resilience in spite of the dangers, and they never lose sight of God's presence. Pray that this incident may lead to even more opportunities for ministry in Gaza and for protection of the staff as they clear up the damage and look to re-open the shop."

Representatives of the Palestinian ministry of Culture visited the shop to express support for the work of the society, and a few days later a crowd of over 200 gathered to express their support too. Labib Madanat added, "there are people who do not want us in Gaza, but they are outnumbered by those who welcome us." In the middle of the awful conflicts going on in Gaza, and in the Holy Land generally, it is often forgotten that there is a Christian community there, including Arabs, Armenians, and other groups whose history goes back to the time of Christ.

(Based on a Bible Society Press release, 3rd May 2007)

Magpie flies again ...

... and has realised that he knows at least three people ~ children really ~ well, actually babies ~ who are called Noah. One was baptised here last month, and the others are a bit further away ... but do their parents know something we don't?

... and sometimes flies across the Mersey to West Didsbury, where there are sometimes nefarious goings on! It's in Marie Louise Gardens, off Palatine Rd., which were given to the people of Didsbury as a memorial to the donor's young daughter, Marie Louise, who died at 11, I think. They form a lovely oasis of calm, full of squirrels and birds, so close to Northenden and the busy-ness of Palatine Rd. Not a few brides retreat there after weddings at St. Wilfrid's for the special photographs. First of all, in an odd interpretation of "the right to buy", the groundsman's lodge got sold off, so the story goes. Then the maintenance yard (having been blocked off so that no-one could use it for maintenance) was deemed to be "derelict" and therefore saleable, so the story goes, and it was acquired too. Now there are plans (which have been poorly publicised ~ surprise, surprise) to "extend" the groundsman's lodge into an umpteen bedroom

mansion or two. So, more or less, the story goes. West Didsbury Residents' Association are campaigning against this, and spoke to Northenden Civic Society about it in May. Magpie does not know whether to call it (in Ted Heath's words) the unacceptable face of capitalism, or (given Manchester council's once-upon-a-time leanings) a betrayal of socialist egalitarianism ~ but perhaps Didsbury isn't equal, so it doesn't matter. It is possible that the council's "breach of trust" will be challenged legally. Watch this space. Watch out for this space! And perhaps even watch out for any space! What is possibly going to happen near the pool by Ashfield Lo., between Withington Golf Course and Dene Rd. West? What about the Tatton Arms? What did she sing? ... "You don't know what you've got till it's gone."

... has heard people asking about "the dig" this year. Well, it's not at Northenden Mill, if only because there was not much new left to get at (safely at least) after last year. There will be some small trenches put in around Wythenshawe Hall, by members of South Trafford Archaeological Group and South Manchester Archaeological Research Team, but these are to be almost imitations of a Time Team effort ~ they have to be in and out before the next wedding at the Hall. So there is no "public" community dig this year. There will be some work done by children from local schools, however. They will be using various surveying techniques in the enclosures and open fields around the hall, linking in with science and numeracy work as well as history, no doubt.

... has never been particularly fond of smoking, though he bears smokers no ill will. The smoking ban, which comes into effect in public buildings in England at the beginning of next month, has produced some laughable quirks, as some notable clerics have pointed out. Upon the great ceremonial door of Westminster Abbey, no less, there shall appear a sign which shall read, No Smoking. Lesser churches too fall under the ban. Have our lords and masters discovered the eleventh commandment, perhaps? ~ or is it the twelfth, if number eleven is Thou shalt not be found out ~ Thou shalt not smoke. It's an oversight it seems, because no-one thought to include churches, mosques, &c. in an exemption such as the National Trust negotiated for its ancient and historic front entrances, and now, like the biblical Laws of the Medes and Persians, it cannot be undone. So the

first hymn is to be sung to the tune of the Boar's Head Carol,
thus:

Our masters have decreed a law
though none hath seen the need before
nor ever was in time of yore
Ne fumiges ecclesiam.

(Incidentally, unless they contain nicotine, it seems that candles
and incense are not included in the ban.)

... remembers an alleged rubric ~ or stage direction ~
in connection with the giving of a candle in the draft Church of
Ireland modern language baptism service;

Here the minister shall offer the candidate a light.
Perhaps there was some method in this madness, then. But let's
hope it doesn't give people ideas!