

CONCORD ~ June 2012

Prayer for the Month ...

O Lord, our heavenly Father, King of kings and only Ruler of rulers, who from your throne behold all who live on earth;
with all our hearts we pray that you will look favourably on our sovereign lady, Queen Elizabeth.

Strengthen her with the grace of your holy Spirit, so that she may always incline to your will and walk in your ways; endue her plenteously with heavenly gifts; grant her in health and wellbeing long to live, and that after this life she may attain your everlasting joy and felicity.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Based on the Book of Common Prayer prayer for the Queen.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.
0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

I would never get very excited about a royal visit, though I have treated one with gladness and respect. It was in 1974, when we celebrated the thousandth anniversary of the coronation of Edgar as the first king of *all* England. (You remember it well, I am sure.) He had been crowned at Bath Abbey, and her majesty graciously visited the Abbey for a service of thanksgiving. Since I was working in Bath at the time I was one of the clergy who crowded the choir-stalls at that service. I remember a sense of mischief at walking through the city in full robes on the way there (vestry space was limited) and also how (five minutes before the official start time) the Rector of the abbey called down the nave to tell his virger to close the doors to keep the heat in. The virger kept them open, because he could see what the Rector could not ~ that her majesty was about to enter. Oops! She, of course, is always on time – royal time. Now, as then, we should thank God for her work.

People criticise the idea of monarchy, or of the monarch being head of the Church of England, though they rarely criticise the queen herself. Of course there are faults with it as with any system, but it does now give us a politically neutral Head of State; think of the alternatives; the divisiveness of a narrow election (as in France last month) or the inept leaking of details of a sensitive security operation to score an electoral point (as in America). We avoid that

through our present system. Just say four words to yourself: President Thatcher, President Foot, and imagine how that would have played across the United Kingdom. Well meaning people, but hardly symbols of unity, even as superannuated figureheads.

I am not advocating some "divine right of kings" (or even a "royal prerogative" exercised by a Prime Minister), but I do not believe it is any more *modern* or *advanced* to idolise the electoral process. *Vox populi* is not in itself *vox Dei* ~ the voice of God.

So here's a mischievous and none too serious thought to end with. Ancient Athens chose its Heads of State annually by random lottery of the citizen body. Should we ask Camelot to run everybody's National Insurance number through their lotto machines? And the lucky winner, like it or not, is ... King for a year!

But seriously, now read on.

Greg Forster

Christian Aid. G.S.F.

Thank you to everyone involved in Christian Aid Week in May. I have not yet had figures of what we collected ~ see next month's issue. But thank you to all you collectors, and to everyone who has contributed. My apologies for a rather disorganised allocation of envelopes. I have run down our stock of old envelopes and underestimated the number needed. Next year we should have it right.

If you missed an envelope and want to donate, see me, or send direct to Christian Aid, PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT.

The need, of course, remains; in addition to the high profile emergency relief which is necessary at short notice from time to time, they support ongoing education and development, working through local groups, most often church groups, to create more viable agriculture; small enterprises, and so on. Their regular magazine is available for you to look through or borrow in church.

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

Northenden Methodist Church

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

Sunday Services.

1st Sunday every month

Family worship ~ Sunday breakfast club ~ MESSY CHURCH

All start off with breakfast** together at 9.00am, then do activities with your child(ren) followed by a story, songs, and prayer based on the activities ~ finishes about 10.30am.

**Currently £1 per person.

For details contact Amy Carline, 07816 888 704

June	3 rd	9.00am Messy Church 11.00am Morning Worship 6.30pm United Service at St. Wilfrid's
	10 th	11.am Morning Worship (details not yet available)
	17 th	11.00am Morning Worship
	24 th	11.00am Morning Worship
July	1 st	9.00am Messy Church 11.00am Morning Worship 6.30pm United evening service @ Northenden.
	8 th	11.00am Morning Worship.

Please note: as we go to press I do not have the roster of services for this quarter ~ so please listen out in the church notices for any unusual arrangements that I have missed. GSF (ed.)

Community Lunch

Wed. 13th June, 12 noon - 1.30pm ~
Next lunch ~ Wed. July 11th. (to be confirmed)

Fun Bingo

Usually last Sat. of the Month (June 30th), 12.00 noon - 2.00pm.
(to be confirmed in weekly notices)

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;

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, both between 10.30 and 11.30am Sundays ...

... except when there is a Family Service in church ~

i.e. May 6th, June 3rd., &c.

June 3 rd	10.30am Family Communion ~ Jubilee 3.00pm <i>Nigerian Congregation ~ Fathers' Day</i> 6.30pm United Evening Worship @ St.Wilfrid's
10 th	10.30am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evening Worship.
17 th	10.30am Holy Communion 6.30pm Confirmation & Holy Communion led by the Bishop of Middleton, Mark Davies.
24 th	10.30am Morning Prayer 6.30pm Holy Communion
July 1 st	10.30am Family Communion & Parade Service 3.00pm <i>Nigerian Congregation</i> 6.30pm United Service at Northenden Methodist Ch.
8 th	10.30am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evening Worship
15 th	10.30am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evening Worship

Drop in on St.Wilfrid's ...

**On Sundays from 2.00 till 5.00pm the church is open,
for private prayer, for enquiries, or just to look around.**

On June 3rd and July 1st the church will be open from 2 till about
2.45pm in this way, and then will be in use for a service.

In addition, the church will be open on the last Saturday of each month, from 10am till noon (in parallel with the **Coffee Mornings). This arrangement is to compensate for the "lost" open hours on "first Sundays". If you want to visit specifically on a "first" week-end, please contact the Rector.**

The next open week-end is June 16th & 17th ~ the church will be open from noon till 5.00pm with displays of church and local interest & the opportunity to climb the tower.

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all happening!



Thu. 31st May PCC 8.00pm

Mon. 4th **June 7.00pm** in the Rectory; Women's Group Party.

Weds. 13th Bible Study. 8.00pm, Rectory.

NB Open Days in Church on 16th & 17th June, noon till 5pm.

Wed. 20th Deanery Synod Meeting at St. John's Brooklands 7.00pm

Thu. 21st 7.30pm "Midsummer Madness" ~ Folk music in church.

Wed. 27th 8.00pm Rectory ~ Bible Study.

Sat. 30th 10.00 - 11.30am Coffee Morning; Church Hall.

Wed. 4th **July** 8.00pm Rectory; Bible Study.

Mon. Jul. 16th School Governors' Meeting, 6.00pm

Please note the normally routine events **not** listed!

The date of the next PCC meeting has yet to be fixed ~ we are considering a less frequent pattern of meeting than monthly.

But do note the two **Farmers' Markets** on June 2nd & July 7th.

Midsummer Madness

Modern and traditional folk music for a summer's evening at St. Wilfrid's Church.

With Kieron Hartley and Folk

Thursday 21st June

7.30pm

Retiring Collection in aid of the Booth Centre ~
the cathedral's work with Manchester's street people.

Refreshments!

Women's Group. The next meeting will be a Jubilee party on Monday June 4th, as noted above. There will be nothing in July, but mark August 6th in your diaries. John Kendal, a friend of ours, will be talking about life as a Vet and then as a Teacher. SDF.

The Parish Registers –

In Memoriam ...



Susan Brookes (Robt. Owen Gdns.) 61.

NORTHENDEN CIVIC SOCIETY.

GSF

This meets regularly on the Second Tuesday each month (except August) in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall. This is an open meeting at 7.30pm, for anyone concerned about the Village.

In May there was also a special meeting, to discuss the Society's possible role as a *Neighbourhood Forum* under the new "Localism Act". This would give the Society a formal role within the planning system, and the opportunity for a local scheme to be written into the legal planning framework. It would, however, be limited by policies set higher up the chain of control, and would involve a lot of work and negotiation. The meeting was in favour of finding out more, without committing itself to the scheme just yet.

Magpie...

... the colour was wrong, though the message was right. On May 13th red flags should have been flying at half mast, and blue ones in the ascendancy. But the flag on St. Wilfrid's tower was red all week. Why? Several people tried to read it and were struggling as it flapped so wildly in the wind. Red is the strong, eye-catching colour that Christian Aid use in their logo and on their publicity (with no hint of sphaeropodiast bias), and so during Christian Aid Week that was the colour of the banner which we flew. And in any case, the only blue flag which we have is St. Andrew's saltire, which might have been a bit confusing. Meanwhile, watch out for other vexillatory conundra to solve. The one thing we cannot fly is a royal standard (unless the queen drops in) as you may remember if you had some in your bunting at the coronation and had your fingers rapped for it.

... from reaction to the picture on May's Concord cover, "our" heron still flies incognito, though there have been some lovely suggestions; "He should be called Fred, 'cos that's my dad's name,

and I love my dad," was one of them ~ I think I've remembered the name right. So any ideas for his ~ or her ~ name to Gwyneth Lloyd or other members of the Riverside Park Friends' committee. (their Annual Meeting is on June 19th in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall.)

... many of you will know that Martin Eakins did not stand for re-election to the council this year. He has in fact moved south, to build up a business with his brother. Thanks, Martin, for all your efforts in the Ward over the past half dozen or so years! One of his parting shots was a reminder that it is well over two years since the possibility of Northenden having a civil Parish Council was rejected by the City Council. So that possibility could be canvassed again.

... Graham Phythian has written a number of articles about local history in South Manchester in the Reporter, including some directly related to Northenden. These are now published by The History Press at £12.99 entitled *South Manchester Remembered*.

... is frequently asked what is happening with the tower block at the end of Church Rd. The developers appealed against the council's refusal to allow their extra three metres, and the hearing is scheduled for the beginning of July, in Manchester, and soon after that we shall know.

Confirmation.

As noted last month, there will be a confirmation at St. Wilfrid's on June 17th at 6.30pm. At Confirmation services the bishop presides, as local representative of the worldwide church, and welcomes people into fuller membership. For Anglicans it is the rite of passage admitting us to share in the communion service. It stands for more than this, though; we confirm or reaffirm for ourselves what was done for us when we were baptised; we do believe in God, we do believe that Christ has reconciled us with him, and we to look for the Holy Spirit's support in our daily lives. We pray that God will confirm and strengthen us in that faith and service; and the church confirms our membership. It is not just something for teenagers ~ far from it ~ but for anyone who wishes to reaffirm these things. There is still just time to contact me if you want to find out more or be confirmed yourself. *Greg Forster*

Grouse

G.S.F.

No, not a rival to Magpie, but my annual grouse about people who grouse about the churchyard. In April and May grass grows, and this year's rain has made it grow magnificently, while our

gardener has been unable to get out onto it with a mower. So please don't grouse. We aim to cut the whole area at least once a year, weather permitting, but in the process to allow for wild-life. We cannot match Wimbledon's grass. If you are concerned about your family grave, you are welcome to bring shears of your own, or get the children to have a mowing party next time you put flowers on. The gardener will then be free to mow the other 1½ acres where there are no local families to care. And remember too that this is a working graveyard, with humps and bumps as graves are dug or sink. It cannot be as level as Old Trafford, so mind where you put your feet as you walk around it. And please, if you walk a dog, clear up after it! There are bins at the east end of church.

Church Hall.

G.S.F

I am hoping in the near future to apply for planning permission on behalf of the PCC, to remodel the windows of the small hall and entrance, to improve security and above all warmth in the light of the frequent complaints that the place is cold, and in view of the costs of heating. Drawings will be posted in the hall.