

CONCORD ~ June 2013

Prayer for the Month

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without you nothing is strong and nothing is holy;
increase and multiply upon us your mercy,
so that with you as our ruler and guide

we may so live out our temporal lives
that we do not lose our hold on things eternal.

Grant this, heavenly Father,
for the sake of our living Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Based on a prayer from the "Common Worship" prayer book.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.
0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

You win some, you lose some! This issue includes news and comment about the failure of Manchester City Council to recognise the strength of the local case for the retention of the Library here, and also promising news about housing developments and the reclamation of some of our derelict sites ~ answers to our prayers, perhaps, for the wellbeing of the community.

It is not until early July that David Bown formally says good-bye to Northenden and to the Wythenshawe Circuit ~ at a service on 7th in St. Andrew's church ~ but some farewell events are billed for the end of June. We wish him well as he prepares for a well earned retirement.

But now read on ...

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 Enid Pinch, 445 6778.

The main hall and smaller rooms are available for hire;

~ contact Sue Shaw at the Central Manchester Office, 834-5797

Northenden Methodist Church

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

Sunday Services.

****Usually the 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 £1.50p per person.

For details contact Amy Carline, 07816 888 704

** If this is a Bank or School Holiday, check with Amy to find out what alternative arrangements may have been made ~ in fact the next is **16th June**.

June 2nd 11.00am Morning Worship ##
6.30pm United Service @ St.Wilfrid's

9th 11.00am Morning Worship ##

16th 9.00am Messy Church **
11.00am Morning Worship ##

23rd 11.00am Morning Worship ##

30th 11.00am Morning Worship ##

July 7th 9.00am ** Messy Church ? **
11.00am Morning Worship ##

But check details of Wythenshawe Services ~ ? at St.Andrew's ?
6.30pm Evening Worship ~ details to be confirmed.

14th 11.00am Morning Worship ##

Preaching Plan details not available as we go to press.

Community Lunch

Wed., ~ June 12th 12 noon till 1.30pm

(Next lunch, Wed. July 10th ~ 12 noon till 1.30pm)

Well, hello God, ...

... I don't quite know how to begin this;
I want to talk to you and ask a few things,
but there's lots of people say you aren't there
and I'm talking to myself. ...

But if you are there it would be rude not to say hello,
and if you aren't, well you aren't,
and I can get things off my chest anyway!

But there's lots of people say you are there,
though I don't suppose you're bothered
by how many people vote for you or against,
even if they are professors. You just *are*.

But where?

I'm all caught up in trying to get from A to B
in less time than I've got.

What's it like to be outside time and in a different kind of space?

And have I got that idea right anyway?

Is it right to say you're not up there or out there,
but here, on a different sort of wavelength,
and that you're always there ~ I mean here ~
without a start or a finish?

That takes some thinking about ~
even more than those sums with lots of noughts at the end.

Is that right? And if so, how does it work?

Or is it just a way of talking about something we haven't got any
words for, 'cos we haven't been there yet?

That's awesome!

So, hello God, and I'll try to talk to you again.

I hope you're listening. Truly.

And a couple more good-byes.

In the opening letter I mentioned David Bown's impending departure. Even more impending is Keith Justice's, from being priest in charge at St. Michael's over in Northen (or Lawton) Moor. He steps down on 2nd June, though he is not in fact moving far, and I hope we shall still see him around. Best wishes for the future.

Also retiring, but not till August, is Vicky Ford, head teacher at St. Wilfrid's ~ again best wishes, but more on that in July.

Flagging it up!

Greg Forster

It's a bit of a joke, really. Will people notice? Will they recognise the flag? What will they say about it? When I can and when there is a good excuse, I like to fly flags from the church tower. I say "when I can" because there are times when my back is giving me trouble, and lifting the cast iron trap door out onto the tower roof is beyond me, but when I can a flag goes up. Sadly at the beginning of Christian Aid Week my back was playing up, and I did not risk going up as I had planned to fly the red banner of theirs which we have.

Then comes the reaction. Sometimes it is a simple question: what is it? Sometimes it is more vigorous: *what have you got that *** up for?* That was when we had a "Spanish Day" at St.Wilfrid's school, and someone confused the Spanish national flag with that of the Vatican! Rest assured; I do not have a Vatican flag. And sometimes I make it a quiz ~ "You tell me; you find out! Whose day was it?".

So as not to spoil the next quiz I won't say all the flags that I have, but you may recognise the Nigerian National flag, which I will fly on days significant for our Nigerian Restoration Church congregation; you will certainly recognise the cross of St.George, and I have a variant of that with a motif in the top corner associated with St.Wilfrid. That motif is a set of seven open diamonds in red (*gules*) on a yellow (gold, or "*or*" in the language of heraldry.) ground, and there is a separate flag of that too. We have the saltires of St.Andrew and St.Patrick. (And staunch Englishmen should not complain if it flies on 17th March; Patrick was a good Cumberlander.) There is also a Union Flag, which goes up for national occasions such as Remembrance Sunday.

We have a Jolly Roger too, for fun-days, such as the village Boat Race, but only as the lower flag of a set ~ symbolising that piracy is subdued and captive. We do have a gold and silver (*or* and *argent*) flag, ~ gold crosses on a silver ground ~ which is actually the device of the Crusader kingdom of Jerusalem. The Crusades were not an entirely happy episode, but at eight centuries distance the flag can stand for Christian faith in general when that is appropriate, I reckon, without the merely English connotations of the St.George's cross.

And we also have ... but I won't spoil the fun. We have three or four other flags, and for a bit of light relief why not try to identify them when you see them. Some people have tried to search on the internet. (Is that cheating?) I am not aware of a simple disinterested website that would tell you ~ but there are commercial sites which will try to sell you your own version; I have used NWflags.

St. Wilfrid's Open Week-end

Saturday 22nd June, 12 noon – 5.00pm

Sunday 23rd June, 2.00 – 6.00pm

With our usual mix of displays, tea, coffee and cakes, trips up the tower, historic records and family history.

Bring the family to explore; tell your neighbours; invite the in-laws; revive memories or look into the village's future.

The church is open for its own sake, and as part of our debt of gratitude to English Heritage for support for reroofing work in 2006.

Wythenshawe F.M. broadcasts in the neighbourhood ~ local news, music, views, diary events ... Tune in to 97.2 FM., or you can also listen online at < [www . wfmradio . org](http://www.wfmradio.org) >

Northenden Civic Society ...

... meets monthly, on the second Tuesday, at 7.30pm in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall, to discuss issues affecting the village and its neighbourhood. Meetings are open and we invite comment from all-comers. See < [www . northendencivicsociety . org](http://www.northendencivicsociety.org) > There is also a Facebook page. June's meeting is on the 11th, and July's on the 9th.

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.

Also on Thursdays there is a communion service, at 10am.

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.

The Nigerian Anglican “Restoration” Congregation meets
weekly at **12.30pm** for about 2 hours in St.Wilfrid's Church. The
service includes traditional and lively modern music.

June 2nd 10.30am Family Communion & Parade Service
6.30pm United Evening Worship @ St.Wilfrid's

9th 10.30am Holy Communion
& Memorial Service for Doris Nadin
6.30pm Evening Worship

Please Note also a Confirmation Service @ 3.00pm at St.Wilfrid's.

16th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

23rd 10.30am Morning Prayer
6.30pm Holy Communion

30th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

July 7th 10.30am Family Communion & Parade Service
6.30pm Details to be confirmed ~ united service.

14th 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

Drop in on St. Wilfrid's ...

The church is open on Sundays from 2.30 till 5.15pm (-ish) for private prayer, for enquiries, or just to look around.

To visit at other times, please contact the Rector.

The next Open Week-end will be on June 22nd & 23rd ~ with displays and the opportunity to climb the tower.

The Parish Registers -

In Memoriam ...



Mavis McCormick (Marylon Dr.) 73,
Brenda Bentick (Yew Tree La.) 88.

Baptism ...

On Ascension Day, 9th May: Shane Jarvis.

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all

happening!



Thu. 30th May Folk Music Concert, 7.30pm in Church
Remember the Farmers' Market in the Village, Sat. 1st June.

Wed. 12th June Bible Study ~ Rectory, 8.00pm

PCC Meeting Thursday **13th June, 7.30pm.**, Church Hall.

Wed. 19th Deanery Synod; 7.30pm

Sat. 22nd Church Open Day 12 noon till 5.00pm

Sun. 23rd Church Open Day **2.00pm – 6.00pm.**

Wed. 26th Bible Study, 8.00pm Rectory.

Mon. **July 1st** Women's Group Barbecue. Rectory **7.00pm**

Wed. 3rd, 10th Bible Studies, Rectory, 8.00pm.

Thu. 11th PCC meeting, 7.30pm, Church Hall.

And remember the Farmers' Market, Sat. 6th July.

Women's Group

There will be no meeting in June, but for July 1st, whet your knife and fork and your appetite for a Summer Barbecue.

For all meetings you are most welcome, even if you have not been before; there is no formal membership ~ just turn up!

Magpie ...

... the local action group trying to keep our **Library** open continued with its campaign, and liaised with similar groups across the city, right up to the last possible occasion. The issue was considered at a Council committee on 14th May, and representatives from Northenden were able to address the councillors. Despite demonstrating that the statistics that the council used and the way they consulted the public were all flawed, and despite receiving applause from a public gallery crowded with people from Northenden and other affected areas, the committee's concessions were derisory, and even they were undermined at the Council Executive's meeting on the Friday. Instead of closing on 29th June there may be a delay in closing the threatened libraries until alternative out-stations have been discussed with the community and then put in place. It may be that this issue will be taken further by the local groups here and in other districts. Residents will note that Cllr. DiMauro spoke in support of the campaign, and Cllr. Shone spoke for the amendments but then left. Cllr. Cowell was conspicuously absent. The committee Chair tried to score political points, and was shouted down from the gallery.

... after years of flying around **derelict buildings** and finding many a comfortable perch, Magpie is suddenly having to mind where he lands. The projected conversion of the old Players' Theatre, wrongly (but now probably irreversibly) called the Boathouse, into three three-bedroomed houses is well under weigh. Spies tell him that the craftsmanship is excellent, and it promises to be a credit to Northenden, and its developer.

... surveyors have been seen round the old **Church Inn**, which has changed hands. The surveying has not been translated yet into firm plans, but there is talk of four "town houses" using the façade of the old inn, and of perhaps eight more conventional houses in behind. Watch this space, as the saying goes.

... meanwhile, by the river, work goes on apace to replace the **Camperlands** site with a small housing estate. For those who prefer tents or caravans, Camperlands hope to relocate to somewhere on the Sharston industrial estate, not far away. For those who come in cars, rest assured: the present car park, between Camperlands and the children's play area of the Riverside Park is not part of this scheme and will remain as it is (unless it actually gets resurfaced as part of the package.) The scheme will

offer a mix of two to four bedroom family houses, and some flats, two or three storeys high, and partly overlooking the river from balconies. The scheme was showcased in conjunction with the Civic Society's meeting in May, and received a fairly favourable reception. Anxiety was expressed about flooding, but we should now remember that the flood defences on this side of the river are about a metre higher than those on the Withington Golf Course side. One cannot say it would never happen ~ but ... !

... and just up river is the **Tatton Arms**. Magpie wonders what people would expect to happen there. It would be nice, and doubtless popular, if it could become a major riverside restaurant and social venue again, but that was the idea which led its last tenant to bankruptcy. The amount of money needed to back such a project and make it a goer is not readily forthcoming. So what do people want? The iconic façade is what gets most comment, and what has appeared on much publicity about Northenden in the past. That should remain, as should public access to some parking. As part of the Conservation Area the facade is a feature which should be preserved. But the building is not "listed", and nice though it was it is not of local, let alone regional, significance as architecture or for historical reasons. It was built as new in the 1890s or 1900s, and does not appear to have retained anything of its predecessor, (except perhaps the beer-cellars) despite its mock-Tudor appearance.

So what would you do on the site? Would you preserve the rather piece-meal kitchens and other ancillary features at the back? What about a couple of houses tucked away invisibly where there was once a tennis court or terrace ~ making the difference between a white elephant and a goer? More controversially, how would you react to a replica of the "Boathouse" on the old bowling green or lawn facing the river, behind the flood banks? Just a thought ~ Magpie will probably get his beak bitten off for even suggesting it! But would you take part in a rescue dig to look at those back yard features archaeologically? That is where you might find the real Tudor inn, or at least its outhouses.

Has heard that the **Royal British Legion** is now making its support services more readily available through a drop in centre in Ashton Rains estate agents. See the advert below for contact details. The "Branch" which has arranged this is distinct from the Legion Club. The building which the club had hoped to take on on

Royle Green Rd. is possibly to become a children's nursery. (The houses behind are now occupied.) But watch the proverbial space (and the Council's Planning website) on this one.

St. Wilfrid's Church ~ annual meeting,
28th April

St. Wilfrid's AGM takes place too late in April to be reported on in May. Gwyneth Lloyd was re-elected as Church Warden. There were no new appointments to the PCC, though a number of new Sides-men and -women were elected to welcome us as we come into church. And we now have 91 formal members on the roll.

Kathryn Morgan reported on a year which has been financially complicated ~ money from 2011 coming in very late from the Council, Gift Aided tax not yet claimed, and insurance premiums going out early. The result is what appears to be a loss of about £5.8K, but is in effect nearer a break-even over two years. But we should not be complacent, since we have drawn on reserves more often than not over the past few years. So many thanks to those who give generously of their money, or their efforts.

What is more worrying is that in 2013 we fear that we shall have to find as much as £15K more than we anticipate coming in, because of the loss of the income from the Council-run Lunch Club in the hall, because of some damage to the churchyard wall, and of our hopes of making overdue repairs, routine maintenance and improvements to the church hall. Failure to carry out some of these works will leave us with decay and bigger bills later.

Christian Aid.

Many thanks to those of you who contributed during Christian Aid Week, in May. We scaled back the door to door collecting this year, in the light of comments from last year and people's circumstances ~ though some of you did collect. Thanks.

I do not yet have any total to publicise ~ it is a matter of either getting Concord out on time or counting the money, and the money can wait and in any case I am expecting some more to come in this week. But thanks!

We sometimes get asked what Christian Aid does. Many people do know, or pick up a glimpse of their work from the TV and newspaper ads that they put out during Christian Aid Week: briefly, they will respond to emergencies such as the Syrian Refugee crisis, often in conjunction with other charities in the

Disasters Emergency Committee. Their main emphasis is on Development Aid, usually through a local agency such as a church group. This means people are being helped to help themselves and become self sufficient. They are engaged in Educational work, both overseas and in this country, and this involves non-party political lobbying, for instance in connection with justice in tax and trade around the world. And there is Community Development work, often linked with rights to land or markets.

Copies of their quarterly magazines are available in church for you to browse or take away, or they have a website ~ [www . christianaid . org . uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) ~ which will give far more information than I can give here.

Greg Forster.

**WHY NOT JOIN
THE NORTHENDEN BRITISH LEGION BRANCH**

WE CAN HELP WITH

***MOBILITY *WELFARE *FINANCE *VETERAN BREAKS
* PLUS MORE SERVICES.**

PLEASE CALL IN ~ Mon., Wed., Fri., 10.00 – 14.00.

**WE ARE BASED AT ASHTON RAINS ESTATE AGENTS,
372 PALATINE RD, NORTHENDEN**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR CASEWORKERS:

Brian Brereton, tel. 07544 223658 or

Glyn Humphreys, tel. 07572 126844

In Brief ...

G. S. F.

Negotiations in connection with the proposal for a **Neighbourhood Forum** in Northenden are continuing. The public consultation period is complete, and various agencies, councillors and individuals have expressed an interest in how it develops. Our council seems less on the ball than some, and have even been accused of dragging their feet. Once again, the proverbial space needs watching.

I am writing on the day when Mr.Cameron's **Gay Marriage** Bill is likely to receive its third reading in the House of Commons, before being passed on to the Lords. As I have written before, it seems an unnecessary piece of legislation, given that Civil Partnership already offers the same legal securities and social benefits ~ which I welcome. It is not for Mr.Cameron, or any

politician for that matter whether in Britain or France, to redefine something which is a Gift of God in creation. This is bad ethics, clearly bad politics, and it has taken a rather unholy alliance between political opponents to procure it.

In the next few months I hope that we shall be able to modify the windows of the larger room of the **Church Hall** in the same way that the smaller room has been adapted. Half the windows would be turned into solid panels, with insulation material sandwiched between the outer face and the inner boarding. The small room is now much warmer (and I have had complaints that it is too warm at times! I have never been so happy at receiving complaints.) I am preparing a planning application in this connection, and also an application or two for grants to pay for double glazing, if possible.

Despite a rather late and odd spring, the blossom on the apple trees of the **Community Orchard** part of the Churchyard is prolific. There do seem to be some bees around too, so perhaps we will get a fair crop in due course. There is a hope of creating another area of Orchard on church land lower down Ford Lane, but this will take a lot of clearing and other preparation, and will not in fact happen this year, I fear.

And finally, there is a list at the back of St. Wilfrid's if you want to sponsor the **church flowers** in the next three months in celebration of some person or event. It will close early in June.