

M A R C H 2 0 0 7

Prayers for the Month,

Sovereign Lord, whose son Jesus Christ brought not law but generous love and moral integrity to be the heart of his revelation of you, grant to your church that unity which is your will, and the boldness and wisdom which will enable us to live out both your grace and your truth;

Through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen*

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane, 0161 998 – 2615

Dear Friends,

Can I begin by highlighting the Mothering Sunday celebrations, and invite families of all shapes and sizes to join in. March 18th, ~ and Morning Worship will take up this theme.

We are, of course, now in the middle of Lent. It has been my theme most years that Lent should be a time to take up rather than give up things, whether it is some charitable cause, or bible reading on a regular basis, or making a point of being at worship each week, Sunday or Thursday, or whatever Thus a fast becomes a feast on the things that matter.

And, in the light of the recent UN report on how lousy we British are at bringing up children, perhaps another "prayer for the month", lifted from John the Baptist ~ that the hearts of the parents will be turned towards the children: a significant reversal of what you might have expected, then and now!

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.

4th March 11.00am The Rev. David Bown.
 5.30pm (for 5.40) United Service at St. Wilfrid's

11th 11.00am Mrs. Irene Cooper

18th (Mothering Sunday) The Rev. David Sanders
11.00am., Including Holy Communion

25th (Passion Sunday) 11.00am The Rev. David Bown

1st April 11.00am Morning Worship (Palm Sunday)
??:30pm United Evening Service (time to be confirmed.)

COMMUNITY LUNCH ... ~

12.00 noon – 1.30pm
on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. (7th & 21st)

Fun Bingo: Sat. 24th Mar.. 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.

Benny ...

... has been sniffing around again while Magpie takes a break. You remember that fox? Well there it was, bold as brass, standing in the Rectory garden the other day, looking rather bemused, as if it did not know quite how it had got there, or where it was going. It was a youngster. In the end it decided it was going over the fence into next-door, and off it went. Woof!

... looked in on St WWilfrid's WWWebsite the other day, and saw that it had had almost 1,000 hits (i.e. people looking at it) since it opened. Have you visited yet? Address below.

... noticed a collection of portacabins and orange dayglo safety mesh on the open ground between Mill Lane and the river Mersey. The "Linear" Park groundworks have begun. Woof again!

... and has been sniffing around St. Wilfrid's School lately. There's a lot of groundwork been going on there ~ and above-ground work too. A new library is being built, and at the same time a modern entrance and improved administrative offices and preparation rooms for staff are being added. It is hoped that it will be finished not too long into March.

... heard that there are plans to "dig" in Wythenshawe Park this summer~ how extensively depends on how much money is

available, and whether there is anything worth digging (and some tests in March should show this.) Are Boxer-dogs allowed to lend a paw? Will there be any bones?

... has heard that the Rector's latest "ethical study" ~ on what Jude and Peter have to say ~ is published. Grove Books £2.95, with a web supplement on www.grovebooks.co.uk

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,

Quaker Quest Manchester ... Feb / Mar. 2007.

If you'd like to find out more about Quakers, come along to Quaker Quest – a series of six "stand-alone" sessions at Mount St. Friends' (Quaker) Meeting House, 6 Mount St., Manchester City Centre (opposite the Central Library). Each session will begin at 7pm following refreshments at 6.30, and will finish at 9.15pm. Remaining dates and topics are as follows:

Mon. 19 th	Quakers and Christianity and the Bible
Mon. 26 th	Quakers and Equality.

Each session will include informal presentations by local Quakers, discussions and questions, experience of Quaker worship and an opportunity to browse literature.

For more details tel. 0161 834 5797,
or visit www.manchesterquakers.org.uk

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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, 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.

11th 10.30am Holy Communion and Baptism
 5.30pm for 5.40pm Evening Worship

18th 10.30am Mothering Sunday this year is on the 18th March, and the March Family Service and parade for cubs and brownies will be on that date (not a communion). If you have had children baptised recently, or who attend Scramblers or Sunday Club you are also specially welcome then.

.... 18th 5.30 for 5.40 Holy Communion, 1662.

25th BST 10.30am Holy Communion
 5.30 for 5.40pm Evening Worship

1st April 10.30am Holy Communion (standard)
 6.30pm. United Service at Northenden Methodist Ch.

And Easter day this year is April 8th, and the April family service will take place on that day, at 10.30am.

Times of evening services at St.Wilfrid's were changed as an experiment from 6.30 to 5.30pm during January and February. This has been reviewed and from 4th March there are slight changes. Until the end of March, 5.30 will be the time when the church building opens for the service, which will start five to ten minutes later. This is to allow a break between the end of the informal visiting slot and the service.

***The church is open each Sunday from 1.45 – 5.15pm,
for prayer, visiting, enquiries, &c.***

"It's all happening ..." ~ For your Diaries

And please note the Holy week services ~ Thurs 5th April, School service at about 9.15am, and Maundy Thursday Evening Communion at 7.30pm. Good Friday service at 10.30am ~ and perhaps special "God Friday" events at 7.30pm to be publicised separately.

Confirmation: we now have a date for the Confirmation in June ~ Sun. 17th at 3.00pm, provisionally at St. James' Didsbury. Some details still have to be fixed, so watch this space. The October Service mentioned last month still stands.

From the Registers ...

In Memoriam ...

May Beswick (Bagnal Court) 93, Mary Perry (Boat Lane) 97.

Baptised on Sunday 21st Jan. 2007

Amie Mary Patricia Flynn

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION. GREG FORSTER

Every six years the Electoral Rolls, or membership lists, of all Church of England parishes are renewed completely.

Everyone on the list and still eligible is asked to renew their membership, and anyone else who qualifies is invited to join.

This is a sign of commitment to the work and worship of St. Wilfrid's church. There is no "subscription" associated with the Roll, but we hope that members realise the costs of running a church, and will make other arrangements, perhaps through our planned giving scheme, to share in those responsibilities.

You are entitled to be on the Roll if you are baptised and live within the parish of Northenden, or live elsewhere but regularly attend St. Wilfrid's (or would do so but for illness or disability).

Membership gives you voting rights in the Church meetings, and if you live outside the parish, gives you the same rights to, for instance, marriage here as if you lived within the parish. I also use it as a mailing list, so it is kept on a computer but if you object to that, please say so when you fill in the form

I would encourage you to sign up, not least because the Roll is used to calculate the number of clergy allocated to the diocese, the number of seats we have in General Synod, and such like, and also no doubt by the media as a measure of the strength of

the church! So let me or Morfydd Eglan, our Electoral Roll Officer, know if you do not get a form but do wish to sign on.

SCRAMBLERS

Scramblers? What are they? Scramblers is (are?) a new look S*-*y Sc*-*I meeting in the Church Hall on Sundays at 10.30am for an hour or so (except when there is a family service in church.) More details from Joan Mycock on 998 3304 or Kathryn Morgan on 946 0024, or on our website, and via email at [scramblers @ stwilfridsnorthenden.org.uk](mailto:scramblers@stwilfridsnorthenden.org.uk)

“Dr. Goodman’s Charity”

G S F.

That’s not actually what it is called, but it is how the PCC heard about it. It is actually a Church of Uganda hospital at Kagando, in the west of that country. It has 2 – 300 beds. Many readers will, of course, know Dr. Goodman as a now retired member of the Northenden Group Practice team. She explains the vagueness about the number of beds by saying “when they are busy they just put mattresses on the floor.” (Imagine the ructions if they did that at Wythenshawe!) But they only have 6 doctors and 4 clinical officers, and very limited resources. One of the monthly charitable gifts from St. Wilfrid’s has been directed towards their work, and Dr. Goodman gave us some details of the project in her letter of thanks to the church. She hopes to return to Kagando this summer, and to set up a “mobile hospice”, so that cancer patients (who have been sent home with little hope and no pain relief or medical care) can be visited and given both medical support and pastoral care as a four-by-four vehicle travels round the area. Hospital staff are already being trained for this; it is a scheme that has been tried in three other areas of Uganda already.

CHURCH HALL “DISABLED” ADAPTATIONS. G.S..F.

Were finished in February. From now on the organisers of all events in the hall will have a key which enables them to operate the lift. Though there are safety features on it, we have not left it with unlimited access, because it is not a toy. And the next project? No, we can’t get away from buildings projects, I’m afraid! To paint the exterior of the building.

Please Read this Very Carefully

Greg Forster

When you start to write about some subjects, it is very easy for readers to react to the first trigger word, and not take in what is actually being said. It was like that when I wrote last month about equal rights regulations and freedom of conscience. I was careful to say I was not primarily concerned with homosexual behaviour. That didn't save me being accused both of gay-bashing and of not taking a robust Christian moral stand. What I was and am concerned about is freedom of conscience and civil liberty.

So let me start with Road Pricing. 1½ million people have apparently signed a petition against it. If they are against something which will curtail carbon emissions, I believe they are wrong. If they are against the State knowing where they are all the time, then I am right with them. Liberty is precious.

So I am very uneasy when the State decides to tell someone, whether it is the Catholic Church or an individual bed-and-breakfast proprietor, how to govern his own conscience. For this reason I will not attack someone who chooses, conscientiously and before God, a gay lifestyle, believing it is his true response to the circumstances he finds himself in. But I will be hurt if he (or the State in his name) in turn fails to respect the conscience of someone who believes he is wrong. And I do believe it is a matter of conscience and moral choice. If we deny responsibility for how our lifestyle (whatever prompts it) affects others, then we are machines not men; might is right; morality can go to hell.