

M a y 2 0 0 7

Prayers for the Month.

Loving Lord, the world around us is alive with the reflected glory of your creative power, shining in the light of the new life and freshness of Spring. The lilies of the field and the birds of the air are tokens of your generosity.

Help us to look through the vitality of this world to the promise of your new creation, where its present blemishes and scars are healed. But help us too to value the goodness of your present creation, so that it is neither wasted nor defiled, neither exploited nor hoarded.

Grant that as the world faces changes in its climate and demands on its resources, human greed may be restrained, selfishness curbed, and evil contained, and that the world's people may use it as your gift to hold in trust, not ours to take by right.

Amen.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane, 0161 998 – 2615

Dear Friends,

It's been a beautiful and decidedly early Spring, after a strangely summery winter. That's been lovely, but I can't help being a little uneasy. At the same time, apparently, parts of Europe and America have been notably chilly, so we need to be wary of calling it global warming ~ though climate change may be the right warning label. It is a matter of the amount of energy at play in the system, rather than just warmth and sunshine. It so happened that I met a friend recently who works at the highest levels of industry and government to raise awareness of this, the most serious issue facing anyone (including, he argued, the church) at the present time. He had contacted the Archbishop, and been referred to a clergyman in Essex who was doing some research. So much, he commented, for the church's response. I was able to say that in Manchester Diocese we have been asked in each parish, to consider a "Green Action Plan" for the parish, though this has been pushed down the agenda of St. Wilfrid's PCC by more immediate, though perhaps less vital, issues. I share his concerns, though I am less well placed than he is to do anything. The matter will certainly come up in PCC

discussion, though to be fair, we have tried to manage the land we do control, the churchyard and glebe, in an ecologically friendly way for as long as I have had anything to do with it. So watch this space! Yours faithfully, GREG FORSTER

The Passion of the Christ.

I wonder how many of you watched this film on Channel 4 over Easter week end. I began to watch it, but in the end I found I was reacting to it in the wrong way, and gave up. Would Pilate really have talked with the Jewish leaders in fluent (apparently) Aramaic? Or would he have talked with Jesus in the Latin of Jerome's 5th century Vulgate? In both cases the realism that Mel Gibson was cultivating by the novel technique of using the ancient languages would have been more accurately served by using the Greek which was the lingua franca of the first century Levant. Would his followers have called Jesus Adonay, which is the Hebrew for Lord (God)? The New Testament uses the Aramaic Maran on the one occasion where it does lapse into the original Semitic language.

And also, where the New Testament refers to Jesus' scourging in two words, Gibson devoted an extended scene to it, showing perhaps pointedly the way in which power can work on the behaviour of sadists and bullies, but filling the whole gap between two slots advertising jolly Easter Egg treats, exotic holidays or the latest interest free pay later deal on tacky furniture. I'm afraid the adverts turned me off the whole experience. One day, maybe, I'll watch the video, as an uninterrupted experience, but when I do I shall have to restrain my critical instincts; the story is about my relationship with God, and the salvation of the world, even if it is dubious cinema.

Northenden Methodist Church.

Palatine Road.

Minister: the Revd. David Bown,
5 Kenworthy Lane, Northenden, M 22 4 JF
0161 998 – 2158

Sunday Services.

6th May 11.00am The Revd. Malcolm Purdy
 6.30pm United Service at St.Wilfrid's

13th Christian Aid Week
 11.00am Mr. David Slack

20th May Circuit Service at Baguley Hall Methodist Church

27th Pentecost
 11.00am Mr. Duncan Rutter

COMMUNITY LUNCH ... ~

12.00 noon – 1.30pm
on the 2nd. and 4th Wednesdays of the month.
9th, & 23rd. (buffet)

Fun Bingo: Sat. 26th May, 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 ...

... heard a lot of squeaking in the village the other day. They have seen sense, at last! The pedestrian phase of the traffic lights at the Kenworthy Lane corner has been given its bleeper back, and now we know where we are with the green men too. All four crossings light up, even if only one has been pressed, when it is the pedestrians' turn.

... kept out of the way some nights in April. It was the Tawny Owl, you see. He's a big fellow. Too big for Magpie to mix

it with him, even with a few friends to help. He was calling and perching around the churchyard o' nights.

... wonders what is to become of the pubs of Northenden. Not that many years ago there were five licensed premises within a stone's throw of the church ~ and sometimes the stones, or at least the bottles were thrown. Now, only one is open. Is Northenden going dry? Or is it the wine bars on Palatine Rd? Have they done for the pub trade? The Legion, as noted by Magpie last month, is in for a complete remake; the Church is awaiting the planning process to run its course, so far as I know, before it becomes up-market flats; The Crown is being sorted, we hear, but meanwhile the Spread Eagle is enjoying at least a temporary monopoly.

... it is the Tatton Arms that should concern us most. It features on the Northenden Linear Park literature, on the new Northenden Village publicity produced by the council, and on the Trans-Pennine Trail literature and website; It is described in the Northenden Conservation Area official blurb as a fine example of Edwardian Public House architecture, and enjoys the finest site for a watering hole or eating house in the whole of the county ... but it is closed and seems likely to remain so. There are even dark rumours of redevelopment, and flats, and ... such philistinism!

It is an interesting building, even though as it is now it dates only from the turn of the 19th/20th centuries. The structure around ground level is interesting, however. It is stone, though the rest of the building is fancy brickwork. Are the stones the last remains of the structure of the old "Boat House" inn which stood there previously? Are they a link with the civil war, even, and the refuge to which the then Rector, Thomas Mallory, turned when they turfed him out of office in 1643? What can be seen in the beer cellars?

... you get all sorts, don't you? The Rector had someone write to him the other day asking if he would move someone else's grave marker a few spaces away, because it didn't go with her own family stone! No names, no pack drill, but it's a bit rich, isn't it?

L yra concert.

There is a bit more space in this edition of Concord, so I am taking the opportunity to comment on the Concert, back on the 1st March, given by that Russian group, Lyra. It was an

excellent presentation, as all the 160 and more who came will tell you. I should like to thank them, and also all the others who were involved in making the event such a success, by baking, hospitality, publicising the event, and especially Tim Young for co-ordinating the visit.

They went on from us to a whole series of similar events around the country during March. I gather also that they, or others in the Lyra network, are due back in the autumn. Several people have asked if they will be coming back here again. The answer ~ nothing is yet fixed but we shall certainly be investigating the possibility of welcoming them again next year.

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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, 13-19 May

As usual, we should be glad of help during Christian Aid Week, 2007. If you can collect in your own street, or elsewhere in the village, let me or June Phillipson know.

Regular collectors will be approached as in previous years. If you feel able to put on a special event to raise funds yourself, let us know, and we can get publicity for you, perhaps.

The emphasis this year, it seems, is to enable poor communities to help themselves through improved or more varied crops, tree planting, &c., so I hope all readers will feel able to contribute generously. Christian Aid News is also focusing on the dangers of Climate Change/Global Warming, and the resultant flooding of low-lying countries, cities and farmland that we can expect as a result of it. Be warned!

Last year, despite a few difficulties in getting collections going right round the village, we maintained our previous level of collection at around £2,000. Thanks. Greg Forster

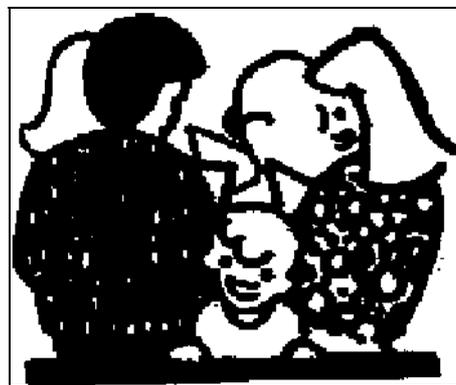
St. Wilfrid's Church,

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.

6 th May	10.30am	Family Communion & Parade Service
	6.30pm	United Evening Worship
13 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Thurs. 17 th	10am	Ascension Day Communion
20 th	10.30am	Holy Communion & Baptism
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
27 th	Whitsun (Pentecost)	
	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Holy Communion (1662)
3 rd June	10.30am	Family Communion
	6.30pm	United Service at Northenden Methodist Church.

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

"I t's all happening ..." ~ F or your D iaries

Wed. 2nd May 7.45 for 8.00pm. Rectory. "Emmaus" study of the life and ministry of our Lord.

Sat. 5th Coffee Morning, Church Hall, 10.00am ...

There is no Women's Group in May;

Wed. 9th As 2nd. Emmaus course continues.

Thu. 10th Church Council, Church Hall, 7.30pm

Wed. 16th No study, but ...

Archdeacon's visitation at St. Matthew's Stretford, at 7.30pm

Thu. 17th Ascension Day;
Deanery service at St. Nicholas' Burnage, 7.30pm.
Wed. 23rd, & 30th Emmaus studies; Rectory, 7.45 for 8.00pm
Thu. 24th 9.15am-ish. School Whitsuntide Service.
Sat. 2nd June No coffee morning.
Summer Fair (and mad hatters' tea party) 2.00 – 4.00pm
Mon. 4th Women's Group Barbecue, 7.00 ... Rectory.
Open Days (Tower tours, &c.) Sat., Sun. June 16/17th.

WOMEN'S GROUP ... meets on
Next Meeting, Mon. 4th June @ the Rectory ~ barbecue.
Bring food for half a person, and your whole self.

From the Registers ...

In Memoriam ...

Harold Bowden (Beech Ave.) 80, Evelyn Cliffe (Moor End) 93,
Julie Graham (Old Broadway) 58, Mary Malloy (Boat La.) 79.

Baptised on Sunday, April 15th, 2007

Ethan Joe Saramanoulis-Selby,
Alexia Faye Williams, Maddison Sally Holroyd.

The Cost of the Church;

The details of the finances of St. Wilfrid's will have been explained at our annual meeting on the last Sunday in April, but here is a brief summary of our 2006 accounts.

The total ordinary income was £48½ thousand (K), of which £19K came from "live" giving and the tax recovered on it, £5½K from a legacy, £9½K from investment income, £9K from fees and rents, and the rest from various activities and efforts.

There was also £24K of special income, either as grants or gifts in connection with building work such as the new toilet.

We paid out £45K for ordinary purposes, and a further £59K on special building projects (though we expect a grant to cover the shortfall there.)

Of that, £19K was paid to the diocese as our apportioned share in maintaining the work of clergy in the diocese, and the other support that it offers. £2,000 was paid to missions and charities (with some still to be paid at the 31st Dec., but delayed for lack of addresses, &c); Heating the church building is shown as almost £5K in the accounts, but I think that figure includes the

hall as well; the cost of running and managing the parish worked out as £4½K or thereabouts, and cleaning and maintaining the churchyard both cost ca. £1,500.

This picture is relatively healthy, partly thanks to bequests, though we are eating into our reserves in order to improve and maintain the church building.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this picture, either through gifts or through efforts, and thank you to those who administer these funds, especially the wardens, and our treasurer, Kathryn Morgan, together with David Latham and Suzanne Moores who process the planned giving and gift aid schemes.

G.S.Forster.

Publishing the Bible ...

I intended this month to write a piece about the way in which Wycliffe Bible Translators and others, such as the Bible Society, are at work putting God's Word into 1,941 languages worldwide ~ with another 2,000+ to go. We take the bible too much for granted, with our plethora of translations, and shelves-full of copies; we should take to heart the words of the Coronation service, when a bible was presented to the Queen, and she was told that it was the most precious thing this world affords.

That was my intention. What I would have written is now modified by a report, in the Times and elsewhere, that three workers at a bible distribution centre in Turkey have been murdered ~ martyred ~ and others injured for simply making bibles available for sale. And that despite Muhammad's words in the Qur'an that other people of the book should be respected. A very precious thing!

To be able to understand Christ's teaching in your own mother-tongue is a privilege, and on it a life of faith is based. But the work of these translators is not just to put the bible in people's hands; it gives people literacy, and the power and sense of self-worth that comes with it. Thank God for it.