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Prayer for the Month.

Almighty God, who teach your faithful people  
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit;  
grant us, by the Spirit, to have a right judgment in all things,  
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;  
thanks to all that Christ Jesus our Saviour has done for us,  
Amen

Based on the Whitsun collect from the ASB

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.  
0161 998 – 2615

Dear Friends,

As usual, May sees Christian Aid Week ~ this year from 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. If you are able to help collecting, let me or June Phillipson know. If you cannot collect, I hope that you will be able at least to give generously towards this cause. We may feel we are in hard times (though to be fair, as someone is supposed to have said a few decades back, "You've never had it so good!").

Over the past few months Christian Aid have been focusing on climate change and the implications of global warming in their magazine. I suppose that as a development and relief agency they are more aware than most of the problems caused by flooding and rising sea levels in such places as Bangla Desh or by droughts and unexpected rainfall patterns in other parts of the world. So, alongside their efforts to relieve the effects of drought or flood they are rightly trying to remind the more comfortable parts of the world that what we do (or fail to limit) will undermine all their and our best efforts.

So, alongside giving to Christian Aid, or other development and relief charities, what things might we do in Northenden to mitigate the effects of global warming? (on the basis that every little helps) What ways are there for us to use or generate renewable energy? Are there places here where tree cover (which both cools the air and absorbs CO<sub>2</sub>) can be increased? I am certainly considering what use can be put to a couple of unused plots of church land in Northenden.

Should we be campaigning for the reversal of the well meaning but very short-sighted idea of requiring our cars to be

powered by bio-fuel? That certainly would benefit the poorer nations of the world directly, as well as ourselves perhaps, since the high prices of wheat, rice, &c., which have resulted in part from the dedication of farmland to growing crops for biofuel, hurt them far more than us. (If any land is turned over to grow crops for burning as fuel, shouldn't it be land which is now under tobacco cultivation?)

So, to sum up, please back Christian Aid in your generosity during "the Week", but in these other ways too.

During April the clergy of the diocese had an In Service Training day on the relationship between Christian and Muslim communities. I am not going to try to summarise five hours of quite complicated discussion, interesting though it was. What I will comment on, however, is this. One of our speakers was a university professor who is involved from time to time on national consultations in this field. As such he meets up with Government ministers in informal situations. At one recent meeting a minister shared the fact ~ no secret, but a predictable fact and a cause for concern ~ that over the next year or so there will be one court case after another coming up in which Muslim extremists are brought to trial for alleged terrorist offences. This is simply the consequence of investigations, with arrests made one or two years ago, coming to maturity.

There will be two dangers in this. The first is that members of the Muslim community may well feel threatened because of the adverse publicity. The other is that the publicity for these trials of alleged terrorists will come over as publicity against Islam. It ought not to be handled that way, and if it is, I hope readers of Concord will see through what is scurrilous. In the right context I would explain the theological and religious differences I have with Islam. In this context, however, I believe that Muslim communities are just as likely, perhaps more likely, to be generally law-abiding than many nominally Christian communities. There is a need here for committed Christians to be understanding, conciliatory and constructive in our dealings with Muslims, whether as neighbours, employees, or however. à

And finally, Ascension Day is 1<sup>st</sup> May, and Whit Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>. You could call that coming and going, or rather going and coming. Christ returned to his Father's closer presence in heaven, and in doing so took his understanding of our human nature there too. Put simply, he is able to put in a word for us

with understanding, and he lifts us, as well as our concerns, to the heart of God.

If that is the going, then the coming is the movement of God towards us at Whitsun (Pentecost). The Holy Spirit is God-the-go-between, who brings God's presence and support home to his people ~ those who trust in Jesus. He puts in a word for God, if we let him, in our hearts and lives. That's something for us to think about this Whitsun!

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.

11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	The Rev. David Bown Christian Aid Week
18 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Mrs Margaret Hunt (Aldersgate Sunday)
25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Mr. Len Reindel
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	United Service ~ details to be announced.

### COMMUNITY LUNCHESES ...

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays in May ~  
**14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>** 12 noon to 1.30pm

Fun Bingo: Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> May, noon to 2.00pm.

Non-Methodists may be puzzled at the thought of an Aldersgate Sunday. It goes back to May 24<sup>th</sup> 1735(?) when John Wesley, an Anglican minister, went hesitantly to a Moravian meeting house on Aldersgate in London, where the leader was reading Martin Luther's Preface to Romans (if I have got it right). As he heard (and grasped) the meaning of promises such as there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus he felt "his heart strangely warmed." The chains of his methodical religious observance fell off; his heart felt a new freedom. The rest is history.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
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## 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 Lesley Thomson (491-1323)

The main hall and smaller rooms are available for hire;

~ contact Peter Todhunter (Meeting House Warden) 834-5797,

## St. Wilfrid's Church,

*Ford Lane. (Off Church Rd.)*

*Rector: Greg Forster (998-2615)*

*Organist: Arthur Mellor (928-0472)*

[www . stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk](http://www.stwilfridsnorthenden.org.uk)

### Services:

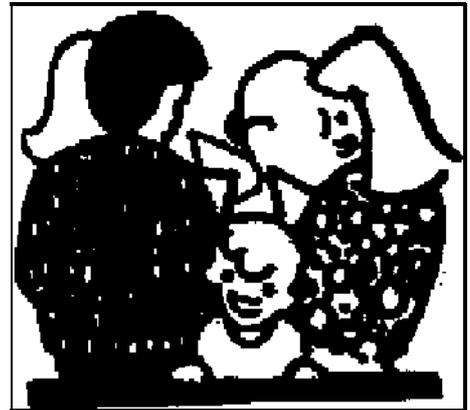
Communion on Sundays at 8.00am,

and on Thursdays at 10.00am

There is a "Sunday Club" for 7 – 11+ year olds meeting 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.

11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Whit Sunday, Holy Communion 6.30pm Evening Worship
18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Holy Communion & Baptism 6.30pm Evening Worship
25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Morning Prayer 6.30pm Holy Communion
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am Family Communion & Parade Service 6.30pm United Evening Worship @ St. Wilfrid's



Drop in ... 2 – 5pm.

St. Wilfrid's church is open each Sunday

from 2.00 – 5.00pm,

for prayer, visiting and just looking round, enquiries about baptisms, weddings, ancestor hunting, ... &c.

And Note the special Open Days on 31<sup>st</sup> May / 1<sup>st</sup> June

IT'S ALL HAPPENING ... for your diaries

Wed. 7<sup>th</sup> Bible Study/"Emmaus" course. Rectory, 7.45 for 8pm  
Christian Aid Week. 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May.

Mon. 12<sup>th</sup> School Governors, 6.00pm.

Wed. 14<sup>th</sup> Bible Study Rectory. 7.45 for 8.00pm.

Wed. 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> Ditto !

Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Open Day (& Coffee) in Church. 10.30 – 5.00

Sun. June 1<sup>st</sup>. Open Day in Church, 12.30 – 5.00pm.

Women's Group: May, June, July. Sue Forster

On the first Monday in May we have the Concert, but a Women's Group meeting has been arranged for Mon. 19<sup>th</sup> May, ~ 7.45 for an 8.00pm start, as usual. The venue will possibly be the church rather than the Rectory, since the speakers hope to show slides and have a sales table. They are ...

Sheila & Simeon Rydz, speaking on ...  
The History and Work of the RSPB

There will be no meeting in June,  
and on July 7<sup>th</sup> we have our annual Barbecue ~ from 7.00pm

June Sat. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2 – 4pm Summer Fair.

From the Registers ~ In Memoriam ...

Eileen Cahill (Timperley) 85, John Ogden (Church Rd.) . . ,  
Carole Maudsley (Woodhouse Park, former Site Manager of  
St. Wilfrid's School) 49, Ralph Ridgway (Church Rd.) 70.

"Don't dump it, donate it !!! "

This is the interesting slogan on a poster from the Tree of Life Centre, St. Mark's URC church, Oatlands Rd., down in Wythenshawe. At their community shop they are prepared to accept unwanted furniture, household items and white goods. Contact: 0161 437-0835. "Help us to help others," they say.

Don't forget the Farmers' Markets, now on the first and third Saturdays in the month, on the new parade.

Church Open Days ...

**St. Wilfrid's Church is open for visits and tours  
on Sat. 31<sup>st</sup> May from 10.30am till 5.00pm,  
and on Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> June from 12.30 – 5.00pm.**

**There will be displays, as is usual on these occasions  
(if you want to put one on, for your group or charity, let the  
Rector know).**

**The tower will be open, with trips up it for fine views across  
Northenden and beyond, and access to the bells, clock, &c.**

**Registers will be accessible for Ancestor hunting!**

Please note that there will be only one other open weekend  
this year; the national "Heritage Open Days" w/e on 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup>  
September.

Northenden Riverside Park ... "FRIENDS" ANNUAL MEETING

Please note that the annual meeting of the Friends of Northenden  
Riverside Park is taking place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm in  
the Church Rooms, Ford Lane.

Readers will have noticed that the display boards for  
the park are in place, and that some notices are already in them.  
More information sheets are being prepared, with pieces about  
local history, the wild-life of the park, and the river.

**M a g p i e ...**

It must be the Marathon season. Nick Bettridge took  
on the Paris Marathon in April (it was a week before the London  
one, in which Kate Johnstone ran) and put in a creditable time of  
3hrs 39mins. He was running on behalf of Médecins sans  
Frontières ~ the French aid charity, and he has written a piece for  
us elsewhere in this issue. He hopes to raise something like  
£2,000 for them. More strength to his elbows ~ or knees!

Magpie understands that the petition about the civil  
"Parish Council" for Northenden ~ civil, that is, not churchy,  
and still less Dibley ~ has been presented. More strength to  
those elbows too! If this is handled wisely it can mean an  
effective voice, and some limited practical action, for Northenden.  
If it is treated as a political football between the Village and the  
City council it will simply mean frustration for Northenden, and  
lousy publicity for the City Council and our local City Councillors.  
Over 10% of the voters in the village have asked for it.

In March I threw out the idea of putting together a list of birds seen in Northenden. Some more people have taken me up on this during April. One commented on some sparrow-sized olive green birds with yellow wing flashes ~ Greenfinches. Another pointed out three large birds wheeling overhead, coming very close and possibly passing things to one another ~ Buzzards. There's wild for you.

I have also seen quite a lot of the grey Herons who frequent the riverside. They have flown low over the houses, and even perched on the roofs. In the middle ages I think they were sometimes called storks: will we get them nesting on our chimney pots?

Other people have noted the collared doves ~ some people call them ring doves ~ which seem to have come back, after dropping in numbers in the last couple of years. I can remember when they were rare visitors from the continent.

### Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) ~ Nick Bettridge

MSF is the leading international non-governmental organisation for emergency medical aid. It is dedicated to providing expert medical relief to victims of war, disasters and epidemics in 80 countries around the world, giving help to those who need it most, regardless of ethnic origin, religion or political affiliation.

MSF has been setting up emergency medical aid missions around the world since 1971. Examples of the better known areas where they are active are Sudan, Zimbabwe, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Colombia. Many of these areas are ravaged by war, and vast numbers of the population have been displaced to camps where disease and malnutrition are rife.

MSF volunteers enter these areas at no little risk to themselves and dispense medical and nutritional help to the victims. An MSF member was shot and killed recently, which demonstrates how dangerous these areas can be.

Nick adds; "I hope to raise around £2,000 for the charity through my Marathon run. It was a cold but dry day in Paris, and 29,000 runners started the race. Of these 28,000 finished. I completed the 26.2 miles (42.2 km) in 3 hrs. 39 mins.